

Cafeteria that never sleeps and other midnight food havens

3 cops nabbed in Cainta robbery; one-year-old killed



Imports fell 3.1% in July to \$3.64B; oil price crisis dampens demand

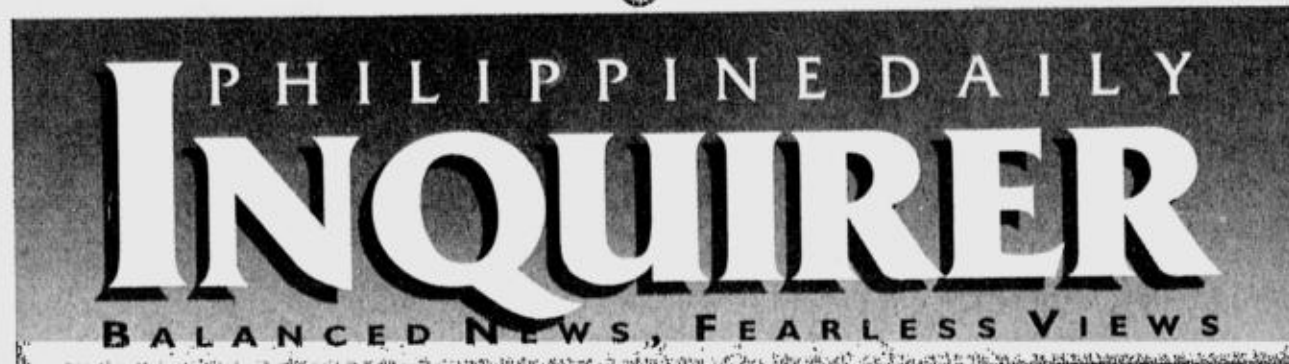
PCGG says Imelda jewels could fetch P8B with gowns, shoes

'Mighty mouse' grounds Airbus for nearly 13 hours



By Nikko Dizon
CALL HIM MIGHTY mouse.
A mouse succeeded in delaying the Qatar-bound flight of an Airbus 330-200 for nearly 13 hours.

'MIGHTY MOUSE' / A4



GMA has 'personal reasons' for sacking Luz, says Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., TJ Burgonio and Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO DOES not have to give a reason for terminating the services of her political appointees, including Education Undersecretary for Finance Juan Miguel Luz, Executive Secretary Eduardo Er-

GMA HAS / A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Wednesday, September 28, 2005 ★★ 60 pages / 5 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 292

P18

website: www.inq7.net

'Stop gov't takeover plan'

Pro-GMA solon says Congress will not support 'Rasputins' scheme

By Philip C. Tubeza

A RANKING ADMINISTRATION LAWMAKER YESTERDAY urged the Department of Justice to drop its "Machiavellian" plan for a government takeover of strategic industries should the oil crisis worsen.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, said Congress would not support a scheme that he described as "silly, pointless and

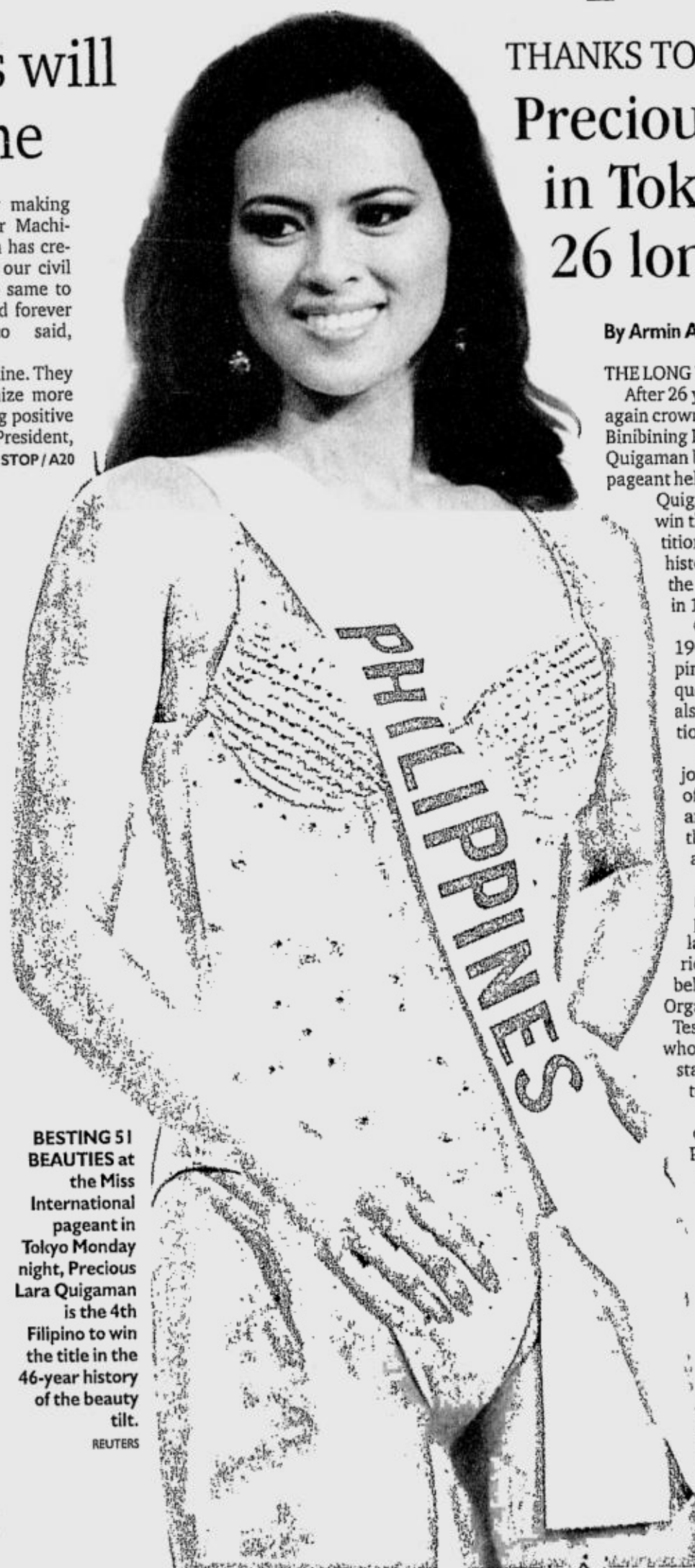
completely unnecessary" and as serving to alienate the public from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I urge [Justice] Secretary [Raul] Gonzalez to restrain his

Rasputins from further making any comments on their Machiavellian research, which has created chilling effects on our civil liberties, [or] order the same to be shelved and banished forever in oblivion," Cuenco said, adding:

"This is clearly out of line. They are tending to antagonize more people than contributing positive sparks in helping the President,

STOP / A20



THANKS TO DAD

Precious victory in Tokyo after 26 long years

By Armin Adina

THE LONG WAIT IS OVER.

After 26 years, a Filipino beauty was again crowned Miss International when Binibining Pilipinas Precious Lara Quigaman bested 51 beauties in the pageant held in Tokyo Monday night.

Quigaman is the fourth Filipino to win the Miss International competition in the pageant's 46-year history. The last Filipino to win the title was Mimilanie Marquez in 1979.

Gemma Cruz was crowned in 1964 making her the Philippines' first international beauty queen. In 1970, Aurora Pijuan also bagged the Miss International title.

This brings the country's major beauty titleholders to a total of six, including Gloria Diaz and Margarita Moran who won the Miss Universe title in 1969 and 1973, respectively.

Quigaman, a model and freelance Web designer, is expected to come home to Manila early next week, after a series of official appearances in behalf of the Miss International Organization.

Tess Ignacio, Quigaman's aunt who lives in Taguig City, was ecstatic over her triumph. "Glory to God!" Ignacio exclaimed.

"Ever since the beginning, our goal is to glorify God, and Precious would not have made it without the help of the Lord," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"We claimed the victory even before she went to Japan," Ignacio said.

"I am confident because I have a father praying for me in heaven," Quigaman had said before leaving for Tokyo early this month.

Just before her father Nelson figured in a fatal road accident in London in May, he had told his daughter that she would be

PRECIOUS / A4

Palace appeals to Senate: Cancel all probes this week

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

APPARENTLY "RATTLED" BY THE SPATE OF inquiries lined up by the Senate, Malacañang has asked the chamber to cancel its investigations into various alleged government anomalies scheduled for this week, a Senate source said yesterday.

The source said the Palace was asking for a "blanket cancellation of all hearings this week."

Malacañang's letter carrying the appeal was being sent late yesterday to Senate President Franklin Drilon and to the concerned committee chairs, the source said.

The appeal followed a meeting between Ms Arroyo and members of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac).

Among those who attended the Ledac meeting were Drilon and Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan—both of whom

PALACE / A20

Gonzales: I love stress

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor

WEARING A HOSPITAL SHIRT, BLACK PANTS and red slippers, Norberto Gonzales does not seem like the man described in a medical bulletin as having a heart in critical condition and needing immediate coronary bypass surgery.

The national security adviser held in con-

tempt by the Senate blue ribbon committee and ordered detained a week ago walked on his own power yesterday from his bed to the receiving area of his room.

His handshake was firm and his smile warm.

"I love stress," Gonzales told this reporter, the first allowed to visit him at the Philippine Heart Center where he was rushed last week

GONZALES / A20

Surveillance tapes erased

By Jerome Aning, Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana

THE SURVEILLANCE TAPES THAT COULD have shown whether ballot boxes in the custody of the House of Representatives had been pilfered or tampered with had been erased, according to the head of the House Legislative Security Bureau.

Sixto Brillantes, lawyer of vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda, claimed that 147 of

the 200 ballot boxes containing the contested election returns in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and five towns in Surigao del Sur were missing.

Legarda had filed an election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro with the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), saying De Castro had cheated in the 2004 elections.

Isabelito Flores, director of the House Legislative Security Bureau, an office under the

SURVEILLANCE / A20

BESTING 51 BEAUTIES at the Miss International pageant in Tokyo Monday night, Precious Lara Quigaman is the 4th Filipino to win the title in the 46-year history of the beauty tilt.

REUTERS

BEAUTIES, THEN AND NOW



GEMMA CRUZ, Miss International, 1964

GLORIA DIAZ, Miss Universe, 1969

AURORA PIJUAN, Miss International, 1970

MARGIE MORAN, Miss Universe, 1973

MELANIE MARQUEZ, Miss International, 1979

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, FOR RESEARCH/09/27/05

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Imelda jewels could fetch P8 B

PCGG to throw in gowns, shoes in auction

By Alcuin Papa

CONFIDENT THAT THE world's fascination with her mystique will fetch a price running into the millions of dollars, the Presidential Commission on Good Government says it is also now considering auctioning off former First Lady Imelda Marcos' gowns and famous shoe collection along with her jewelry.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said he will discuss this possibility with three international auction houses he had earlier invited to bid for three collections of jewelry seized from the Marcoses after the 1986 People Power revolt that ended Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year rule.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Abcede said that, like the jewelry, Imelda's gowns and shoes were "nonperforming assets" that "should have been (sold) a long time ago."

Abcede said he expects that the jewelry alone, earlier estimated to be worth around \$10 million, would fetch as much as \$150 million, or about P8.4 billion, in an international auction.

Fascination with Imelda

"I think with the worldwide publicity that the jewelry has received, plus the fascination with Imelda, the total price could be 15 times what has been previously estimated. This has happened several times with auction houses," Abcede said. He recalled that a rocking chair once owned by former US

President John F. Kennedy fetched a price 15 times its original estimated value.

"It's a celebrity auction, meaning the price will be dictated not by the item itself but (by) its association with the celebrity," Abcede said, adding, "With the mystique and fascination with Imelda, we expect a lot."

He did not say how much the gowns and shoes would fetch or who would be interested in them.

Displaying Imelda's gowns and shoes as done in the past is no longer feasible because "people lose interest after around three months," according to Abcede. He added that, like the jewelry, they could be put to better use by being sold, with the proceeds going to the government's land reform program.

3,000 pairs of shoes

At the time of the Marcoses' ouster, the former first lady was reported to have around 3,000 pairs of shoes, including many designed by such world-famous names as Ferragamo, Givenchy, Chanel and Christian Dior, all size eight-and-a-half.

She had admitted owning "only" 1,060 pairs, saying they were mostly given to her as presents by Filipino shoe manufacturers in Marikina. Nonetheless, this massive shoe collection has gained her international notoriety.

Her gowns, mostly ternos, were designed by top Filipino designers like Pitoy Moreno, Ramon Valera and Joe Salazar, and international designers Valentino and Jean Paul Gaultier (in the 70s before he became famous).

3 international auction houses

The PCGG has been negotiating for some time now with three major international auction houses, namely, Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonhams, for the right to sell the

Marcos jewelry

While the auction was planned initially to be held abroad, the PCGG is now considering holding it in the Philippines in hopes it would attract tourists and funnel taxes from the sale directly into the national coffers instead of going to some foreign government. Abcede said March would be a good time to hold the auction in Manila because it would fit in with an international jewelry fair in Hongkong.

Court injunction

Mrs. Marcos is seeking a court injunction to stop the sale, claiming she is the rightful owner of the jewelry, but nothing has come out of this thus far.

The jewelry consists of three lots: the Malacañang collection consisting of around 300 items left behind in Malacañang when the Marcoses fled; the Honolulu collection of around 400 items confiscated by US Customs in Hawaii when the Marcos landed there in 1986; and the so-called Roumeliotis collection, supposedly the most expensive, confiscated at the Manila airport in 1986 from Greek national Demetrios Roumeliotis, said to be a friend of the Mrs. Marcos.

Abcede said keeping the jewelry on display as some quarters want goes against the mandate of the PCGG and would require a congressional amendment of the law creating it.

Sequestered assets

"We have a mandate to sell all assets sequestered by us or surrendered to us from the Marcoses and their cronies," Abcede said. "The jewelry is a nonperforming asset. What am I supposed to do here? Unless the law is amended or I am told by my superiors, the auction will push through. The jewelry is a symbol of Imelda's frivolity. It's not an art collection to be displayed. We want closure here so we can move on."

Tourism secretary tells Duty Free chief to stay

By Jerome Aning

"STAY WHERE YOU ARE."

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano yesterday ruled that Duty Free Philippines general manager Michael Christian Kho should remain on the job until the basis for his suspension by Philippine Tourism Authority chief Robert Dean Barbers was resolved.

"Until such time that the undersigned has issued a decision, both parties shall continue to perform their functions and responsibilities to ensure the efficient and smooth operations of their respective agencies," Durano said in a memorandum to both Barbers and Kho.

Durano, who also chairs the PTA board of directors, reaffirmed the order issued during his recent absence by then acting tourism chief, Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab, setting aside Kho's suspension.

Barbers placed Kho in the freezer last Thursday while the investigation of supply contracts the latter had entered into for DFP was ongoing. The contracts were reportedly for more than one year, the time limit set for such contracts by the government.

On appeal

Kho, who denied the charge, appealed his 60-day suspension to Palabyab the following day.

Kho explained Duty Free's supply records were in the nature of consignment agreements and were not concessions, where the agency continued to handle the importation, marketing, sale and warehousing of goods.

The agreements, enforced since the DFP's inception in the late '80s, had the approval of the PTA board, he said.

One controversial contract that Kho en-

tered into was a supply agreement for chocolates, confectioneries and other snacks.

The contract was made with Eastern Duty Free, a British Virgin Islands-based firm, during the tenure of Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

DFP employees' union president Dennis Mallari, who exposed the deal last year, claimed the agency stood to lose P336 million a year, or P1.6 billion in five years, with the deal. The union also filed charges against Kho before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Barbers, for his part, insisted there was prima facie evidence, or probable cause, to warrant the filing of administrative charges against Kho.

"The order of preventive suspension against Mr. Kho is not a penalty in itself. It is only a measure of precaution. Mr. Kho is not being removed from his office," Barbers said.

Barbers reiterated his right as PTA head to suspend Kho. He said the case against the DFP chief was still in the formal investigation stage so it did not yet require any action from either the PTA board or from Durano.

Civil service procedure

"It is only when a decision or resolution of the administrative case has been made can the case be referred to the PTA board. This is the procedure under civil service rules," he said.

The PTA is an attached agency of the DOT and is the department's implementing arm. The DFP is a subsidiary of the PTA.

The DFP earned P2.5 billion last year. The bulk of its earnings funded the DOT's international "Wow Philippines!" tourism promotion drive.

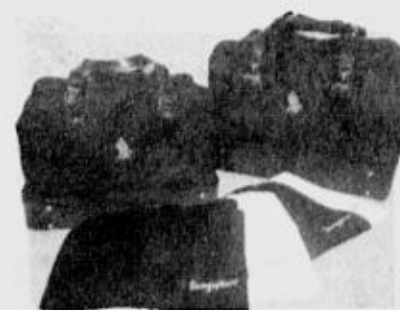
The PTA, meanwhile, earned about P1.7 billion, mostly from travel taxes and from running government-owned resorts, hotels, parks, golf courses and other tourist facilities.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5543, Series of 2005.

CAP



To Our Valued CAP Education Planholders:

September 26, 2005 UPDATE

To prevent SEC's planned management takeover of CAP that would only lead to liquidation, wherein planholders stand to get only a mere fraction for every peso they are entitled to, CAP filed its Petition for Rehabilitation on September 8, 2005. This is to protect your interest as in contrast to the SEC plan, CAP undertakes to stay in business to continue paying tuition fees and fixed value plan maturities even during an 8-year rehabilitation period. At the same time, it commits to build up its trust fund assets by a mini mum of P14.35 Billion.

CAP's Petition for Corporate Rehabilitation has been accepted by the court and docketed as SP. PROC. NO. M-6144. As part of a normal legal procedure, while the Petition is under study, the Court issued a Stay Order that says in part:

"Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise, and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILIPPINES, INC., its guarantors and sureties not solidarity liable with it, is stayed."

"As a consequence of the stay order, the COLLEGE ASSURANCE PLAN PHILIPPINES, INC. is prohibited from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business. It is further prohibited from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of the filing of this petition on September 8, 2005."

This means that until the Rehabilitation Plan is approved, CAP is prohibited from making payments - including payments to planholders.

We understand your situation: tuition fees have to be paid for the first semester of SY 2005-06, and the second semester will be upon us in October. We are one with you in wishing that the Rehabilitation Plan would be approved and implemented in the soonest time possible. But as the Court also has its own processes and needs the time to deliberate on the issues, we ask that you bear with us in the meantime and join us in our appeal to the SEC, our creditors and other planholders to support the CAP Rehabilitation Plan so that we can immediately continue paying tuition fees.

Verdict on Luisita stock option delayed; DAR vows politics-free ruling

By Blanche S. Rivera

THEY CAME, THEY WAITED, they left with futures still uncertain.

Some 300 farm workers from

the Hacienda Luisita who trooped to Quezon City early Monday have gone back to Tarlac after the Department of Agrarian Reform failed to announce its decision on the controversial Luisita

case as it had promised last week. Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman said he still had not decided on the farmers' petition to revoke the stock distribution option in the hacien-

da because he received the terminal report only Monday afternoon, not Friday as expected.

"I'm going through the annexes one by one. It's a very thick report," Pangandaman told the INQUIRER in a

phone interview yesterday.

Pangandaman, who was called to join the President in her trip to Iligan last weekend, said he was not considering the political ramifications of whatever decision he

would come up with.

"We are not weighing the political implications of the case; we will be very objective. This is just work, so I hope nobody taints this (delay) with politics," he said.



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Precious victory after 26 long years

From page A1

bringing home the title. His words made her more determined to win the crown.

Before leaving for Tokyo to witness the pageant, her mother Precy even asked Ignacio and the rest of the family to look for a place to celebrate Quigaman's victorious return.

Precy, a registered nurse based in the United Kingdom, was also expected to arrive today.

Ignacio said that her daughter Mary Jade and Precious Quigaman had been planning to put up a foundation for street children. And now that Quigaman has been proclaimed Miss International, "they have the opportunity to pursue what they want," she said.

Among the three oldest and biggest international pageants in the world, the country has been most successful in the Miss International contest with a total of four winners. The country placed in the Top 5 from 1971 to 1973 and entered the semifinals a dozen other times.

Miss Universe

In the 54 years that the Miss Universe pageant has been run-



DAY AFTER THE NIGHT OF TRIUMPH, Precious Lara Quigaman gets ready for a TV interview in Tokyo as her 10-year-old brother Timothy gives her a kiss.

REUTERS

ning, the Philippines won twice. Five other Filipinos placed in the finals, including Miriam Quiambao who was first runner-

up in 1999.

Six more representatives qualified for the semifinals while five Filipinos were proclaimed Miss

Photogenic, including this year's candidate Gionna Cabrera.

Perhaps the most elusive beauty title for the Philippines is the Miss World. No Filipino has ever won in the pageant's 55-year history.

The closest the country ever got to the crown was a first-runner-up finish in 1973 courtesy of Evangeline Pascual. Sharmaine "Ruffa" Gutierrez was second runner-up in 1993.

But in the last three years, the Philippines has been the only country to consistently enter the pageant's finals.

Katherine Manalo cracked the Top 10 in 2002, while Mafae Yunon and Karla Bautista figured in the Top 5 in 2003 and 2004, respectively.

Other titles bagged this year

Before Quigaman's feat, the Philippines had already bagged three minor international titles this year. Jhezare Javier won the first Miss Asean title in March. Mara Morelli was crowned Miss Italia del Mondo (Miss Italy of the World) and Bridgette Inoferio was recently proclaimed Best Model in the World.

Beauty pageants come from humble beginnings

EVEN BEAUTY PAGEANTS have humble beginnings. In 1951, Eric Morley founded the Miss World beauty pageant in the United Kingdom. What started as a bikini contest that coincided with the Festival of Britain has grown into a major event with a television audience of more than 2 billion. It has franchises in more than 120 countries and has raised over 250 million pounds for charities.

The following year, the first Miss Universe contest was held in Long Beach, California, together with the Miss USA pageant to showcase the Catalina brand of swimwear. The contest now

has millions of fans who watch the pageant in 125 countries.

The Miss International pageant was also created in Long Beach in 1960. About 60 nations have been participating of late.

Not all Filipino beauty queens would live a glamorous life after their reign. Nelia Sancho, 1971 Queen of the Pacific, was arrested in 1976 for her association with the underground communist movement. The former journalism student at the University of the Philippines was detained for two years for her radical ideology. **Armin Adina and Cyril Bonabente, PDI Research**

'Mighty mouse' grounds Airbus for nearly 13 hours

From page A1

hours, in the process forcing the disembarkation of 243 passengers and the unloading of hundreds of pieces of luggage.

And in the end, it managed a clean getaway.

This was how the interlude played out starting Sunday morning at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, according to an airline official who asked not to be identified:

All passengers of Qatar Airways flight QR645 were seated and the flight crew was in the thick of preparations for a 6:30 a.m. takeoff when a member of the crew espied a mouse darting

across the aisle in the economy section.

Immediately, the flight's captain, Renato Kranucec, decided to defer the nine-hour flight from Manila to Doha until the creature was flushed out.

He also issued instructions for the passengers to disembark and their luggage to be unloaded.

Fumigation

The aircraft was brought to the hangar for a two-hour fumigation process as part of safety measures.

Ground engineers scattered specially designed mouse traps all over the plane before shutting it down and starting the fumigation.

After letting the smoke clear for an hour after fumigation, ground engineers searched the aircraft—but the mouse was nowhere to be found.

"We're not sure where the mouse came from and how it managed to get into the plane," the airline official said, adding that its preceding flight had come from Beijing, China.

The aircraft was eventually declared safe, and finally took off for Doha at 7:30 p.m.

First time

Explaining the to-do, the airline official said: "We can't compromise the safety of the passen-

gers."

Octavio "Bing" Lina, operations chief of the Manila International Airport Authority, said the experience on Sunday was unique in his 19 years at the airport.

"There was an incident before with a cockroach, but it's the first time that we had to deal with a mouse, and it delayed a flight," he said.

According to Lina, rodents can chew up important electrical wiring in an aircraft during a flight, thus endangering the lives of the passengers and crew.

There's also the matter of general hygiene, he said.

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 17 issue, a front-page story—"Where Garci was first heard to say hello"—misstated the name of a businessman-columnist who claimed to have listened in May to the controversial audio tape in the possession of lawyer Allan Paguia. The correct name of the businessman-columnist is Herman—not Herminio—Tiu-Laurel.

IN THE SEPT. 23 issue, a story on Page B3 of the Business section—"PSE urged to defer accounting proviso of pre-need firms"—had an erroneous headline. The headline should have read: "SEC urged to defer accounting proviso of pre-need firms." It was the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)—not the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)—that was being referred to in the story.

IN THE SEPT. 25 issue, a photo caption on Page A4 misstated the place where the Movement of Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors (MIND) held its first national convention in May. The correct name of the place is Co Tec Tai Medical—not Medican—Museum in Pasay City.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Rocas Avenue corner Mascarido Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

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DOH chief hits monopoly of bird flu drug

By Christian V. Esguerra

AMID PREPARATIONS FOR AN expected outbreak of a bird or avian flu pandemic, the Philippines might be missing out on a key protective measure.

The country has no stocks of Oseltamivir (brand name: Tamiflu), the primary antiviral drug used to combat avian influenza, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

"We have zero stockpile in the Philippines," he told a press conference yesterday where he trotted out the health department's accomplishments during his first 100 days on the job.

According to Duque, only one drug company, the Swiss-based Roche, has the sole authority to manufacture the antiviral drug and supplies are heavily concentrated in the First World even as the disease is ravaging bird and poultry populations in Southeast Asia, particularly Vietnam, Thailand, Cam-

bodia and Indonesia.

As early as last year, Duque said the DOH had ordered P10 million worth of Oseltamivir from Roche but not a single capsule has arrived.

"The World Health Organization tells us to prepare (for bird flu) but why is it that only one company is allowed to produce Oseltamivir? Why are the more vulnerable nations deprived?" asked the health secretary.

Pandemic imminent

WHO experts recently stepped up its information campaign on bird flu, warning that a pandemic was imminent because of the danger from a mutation of the avian influenza virus to a form that could be transmitted by humans.

They said the cold months, beginning in October, would be crucial because migratory birds which are evading the winter months usually flock to tropical coun-

tries like the Philippines.

The WHO says migratory birds carry the virus long distance and epidemics occur when domesticated birds like chicken and turkey come into contact with them.

Duque said he had complained against Roche's monopoly of the antiviral at a recent meeting of regional health ministers where WHO officials sounded the alarm on an impending bird flu pandemic.

He said he also wrote the WHO country representative in the Philippines to help campaign for greater production and distribution of Oseltamivir.

One strategy was to seek a special license so other drug companies could produce the antiviral and make it more accessible to countries badly hit by bird flu like Vietnam and Indonesia, he said.

Even if Roche had the patent for Oseltamivir, he said a special license

could be granted during health crises such as avian flu which has so far killed 64 people, mostly in Southeast Asia.

Oseltamivir is not really expensive. A dose of 10 capsules taken twice daily in five days costs only P1,700, said Duque.

Despite the absence of the all-important drug, local health officials are optimistic they can handle the problem if bird flu finally arrives.

"We are ready for any eventuality," said undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto, who oversees the department's National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

The government approach so far was to stop the entry of the virus to stop its infecting domestic poultry products, she said.

Duque said people in direct contact with ducks and chickens have been instructed to wear protective gear to avoid

animal droplets through which the virus is transferred.

Nieto said government hospitals had been placed on alert to accommodate bird flu cases, if the virus were to reach the country and infect humans.

Quarantine areas have also been put in place in the country's points of entry, she said.

The designated government hospitals are the Lung Center in Quezon City, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu, and the Davao Medical Center.

These hospitals are equipped with negative pressure rooms which contain the air within so patients would not infect those in the immediate environment. These were the same hospitals used in isolating victims of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

SC keeps alive Lucio Tan libel suit vs Inquirer

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS junked the petition of the INQUIRER and the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines (Alpap) asking the high court to dismiss a P120-million libel complaint against them by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan on the ground that it was filed in the wrong venue.

In a Sept. 23 decision, the SC second division said the place where Tan filed the case in 1998 had no bearing on the issue because it involved a civil and not a criminal suit.

The court said that the INQUIRER's and Alpap's "argument that the lower court has no jurisdiction over the case because [Tan] failed to allege the place where the libelous articles were printed and first published would have been tenable if the case filed were a criminal case."

As far as civil cases are concerned, the SC said "venue relates to trial and not to jurisdiction."

"It relates to the place of trial or geographical location in which an action or proceeding should be brought and not to jurisdiction of the court," said the decision penned by Associate Justice Minita V. Chico-Nazario.

Tan, the chair of Philippine Airlines (PAL), filed the suit before the Makati Regional Trial Court on Sept. 25, 1998, three days after the INQUIRER published a report titled, "Tan's firms made P25B as PAL bled."

Named respondents in the case were Alpap spokesperson Florendo R. Umali, INQUIRER reporter Armand Nocum, Alpap and the INQUIRER.

Tan said the article "besmirched" his reputation and caused him to lose people's respect and esteem.

The Makati RTC earlier junked the libel suit, saying the case should have been filed in the city where the complainant lived and where the alleged defamatory articles were first published.

In his complaint, Tan said he held office in Makati City but failed to show that he also lived in the city.

But the Makati court reversed its decision after admitting Tan's "amended complaint for damages," in which it was stated that the INQUIRER article was "printed and first published in ... Makati."

But where are freedom parks?

METRO MANILA'S 17 TOWNS AND CITIES were yesterday urged to inform local police where their "freedom parks" were located, so police authorities could tell immediately whether or not to disperse a demonstration or rally.

"If they have one, let the police know," said Metro Manila Police chief Director Vidal Querol.

"The first thing that a police (commander) can do is determine if (protesters) are demonstrating in a freedom park. If they are, they no longer need a rally permit," he said.

Under Batas Pambansa 880, a permit is not required if the assembly is being held in a freedom park or private property.

Querol said police chiefs have been instructed to find out if a city or town has a freedom park, and mark it. He said he was still waiting for feedback from the officers.

Militants continued to rail yesterday at the allegedly "draconian tactics" being used in dealing with protest actions.

The Pamalakaya fisherfolk group disputed a statement from PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao saying that the policy of "pre-emptive calibrated response" was put in place to protect the "silent majority" against a "tyrannical minority."

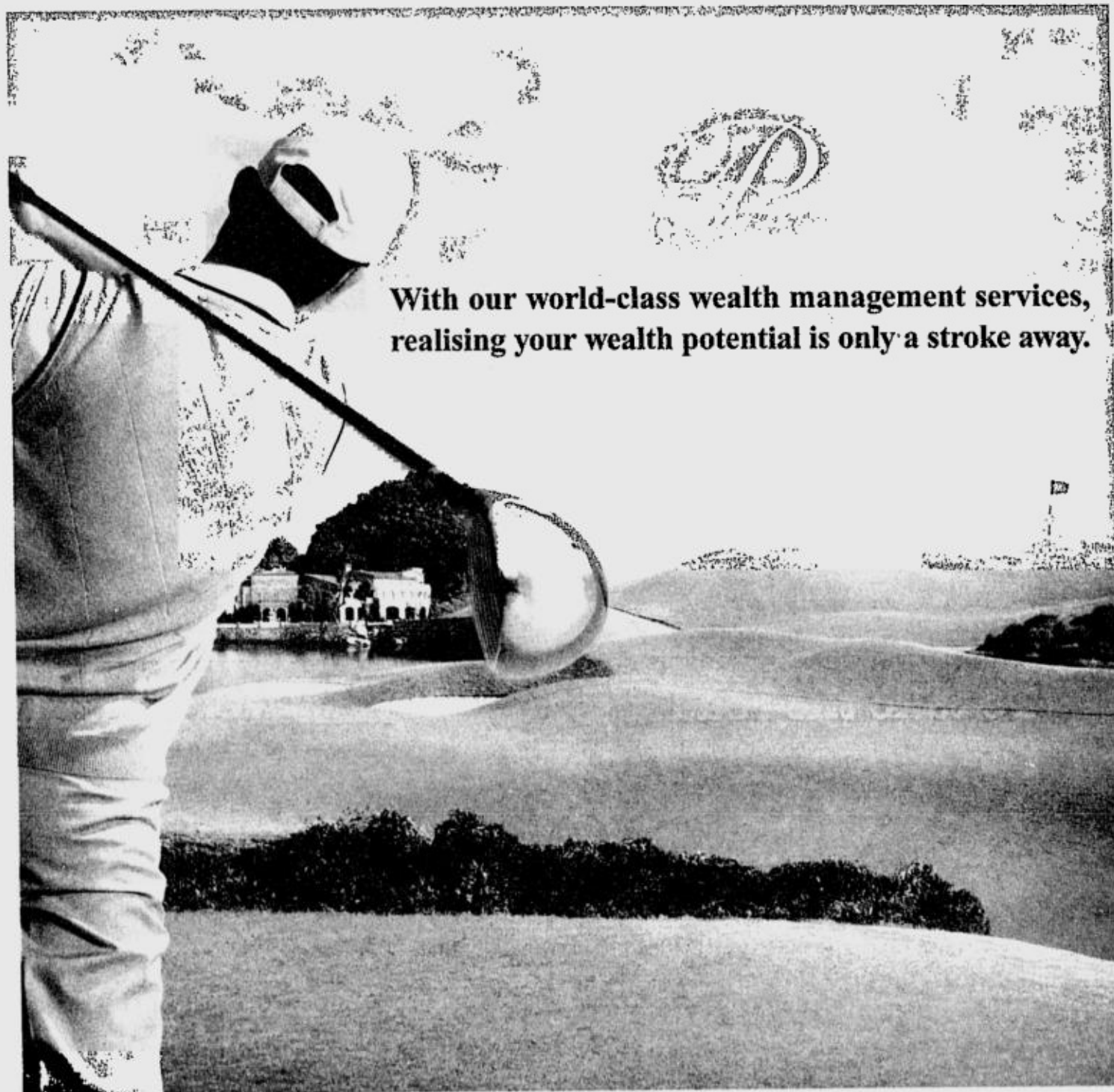
Citing recent poll surveys, the group claimed President Macapagal-Arroyo's popularity has gone down and that majority of Filipinos wanted to see her out of office.

On Monday, Lomibao said the police would not allow any more street protests as they impeded the flow of traffic and people.

"We are in a democratic society and the rule of majority is always upheld. We cannot allow the so-called tyranny of the minority to rule over the big majority," he said.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas referred to preemptive calibrated response policy as a CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) for authoritarian rule.

Luigi A. del Puerto



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Militant lawmakers seek probe gov't's CPR policy vs street rallies

By Philip C. Tubeza

MILITANT PARTY-LIST LAWMAKERS yesterday filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the administration's "calibrated preemptive response" (or CPR) policy.

Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño and Joel Viador, together with Anakpawis and Gabriela Women's Party lawmakers, also called on Congress to act on a proposed bill that would overturn a Marcos-era law requiring permits for rallies.

They said the CPR and the "no permit, no rally" policy were inconsistent with and were a direct violation of the Constitution.

"The policy of [CPR] dangerously assumes that any and all forms of rallies and demonstrations critical of

[Ms Arroyo's] government are unwarranted, if not illegal, preposterously implying that such democratic exercises are unhealthy for the nation and, thus, should not be tolerated and, by all means, be preempted," Ocampo and company said in House Resolution No. 957.

They said the "no permit, no rally" policy and the CPR violated Section 4 of the Bill of Rights, which states that no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech and expression or the people's right to peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

"Such a policy signals a return to the repressive regime of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who declared martial law in 1972 that went down as the darkest years in the annals of

recent Philippine history, leaving hundreds either killed or disappeared in its wake," they said.

Casiño said Congress should also act on House Bill No. 1555, or the Freedom of Expression Act of 2004, filed in July 2004.

The bill seeks to repeal Batas Pambansa 880, the Marcos-era law requiring permits for rallies.

"Unfortunately," Casiño said, the bill had been "gathering dust" at the House committee on public information.

The bill's salient provisions include a ban on the dispersal of any public assembly unless it had actually turned violent.

Law enforcers will also be required to stay 200 meters away from rallies and restricted to "maintaining peace and order."

GMA has 'personal reasons' ...

From page A1

mita said yesterday.

"All political appointees of the President can be removed from their position of appointment at anytime at her pleasure," Ermita said in an interview with dzRH radio.

Ermita said Ms Arroyo had her "personal reasons" for removing Luz, a brother of Makati Business Club spokesperson Guillermo Luz, who has called on the President to resign.

Ermita said that just because Luz was a career executive service officer (Ceso), it did not mean that the education undersecretary could not be removed from his post.

"He can be removed and, as a Ceso, he can be moved to another place where his expertise can be utilized," said Ermita, quoting Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, a former head of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Luz said the CSC had opined that he could not be terminated without cause because he was a Ceso.

Luz was reportedly dismissed after he returned to Malacañang several postdated checks worth P15 million for a scholarship program of Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz, one of the legislators who rejected the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

UP college dean

The removal of Luz came on the heels of reports that Raul Pangalangan had been unceremoniously booted out as dean of the UP College of Law by a supposedly proadministration UP Board of Regents. Pangalangan was dean when the UP law faculty called for the President's resignation.

What happened to Luz and Pangalangan set off speculation that the Arroyo administration was cracking down on its critics.

Also removed from his post was Senior Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, chief of police in Makati, where opposition and militant groups have been holding protest rallies against the President.

This week, Gutierrez was "promoted" to deputy of the Southern Police District, a notch higher than his previous post. But police sources told the INQUIRER that his post in Makati was more prestigious than his current one.

Insult

Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavio scoffed at reports that Pangalangan was booted out.

"They are claiming that we were dictated upon by Malacañang. That's not true," a miffed Flavio, a member of the UP Board of Regents, told reporters yesterday. "That's an insult to us."

Contrary to reports, the senator said the board did not hold a straw vote after establishing that Pangalangan, an INQUIRER columnist, was no longer qualified to seek a third term under its rules.

"The rule is that you can't get a third term unless your performance is exceptionally outstanding. We felt that he was not. So we did not agree to a third term. That's all there is to it," Flavio said.

Pangalangan was earlier reported to have been removed as dean despite having topped a straw vote among the faculty last Thursday.

Career officer

The Department of Education has asked Malacañang to clarify whether or not Luz had been fired.

But forced out of his position, Luz said he would "fight it" out and file a legal case in the CSC.

At a press conference yesterday, Luz said that on Sept. 13, he received a letter from Ermita saying "we wish to thank you for your services as Undersecretary, Department of Education, effective immediately."

At a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said a Ceso officer could not be separated from the service without cause but this did not mean he could not be transferred.

"This is based on our civil service rules," Bunye said.

Five candidates

After barring Pangalangan from seeking a third term, Flavio said the UP Board of Regents held an election with five candidates for the next dean of the UP College of Law, which was eventually won by Salvador Carlota, a senior faculty member.

"We had an election fair and square," he said. "Carlota won, period. He got seven votes [from the 12-member Board of Regents]."

"By the way, I did not vote for him. I voted for Danny Concepcion. But that's how it is. Some lose, some win," Flavio said.

Asked to comment on reports that Carlota had been recommended by the Villaraza law firm, known to be the lawyers of the First Couple, he said: "What's their basis for saying that?"

Flavio could not hide his disgust over the INQUIRER report which, he said, put the Board of Regents in a bad light. "You're just concocting stories. Did you read the INQUIRER story? That's just an invention. They're making a story out of nothing," he said.

Overstaying

Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said Gutierrez was reassigned to the Southern Police District because he had overstayed in Makati.

"He has been there for five years already," Querol said. "There is no politics in the decision." A city or town police chief usually stays only for three years at most, according to Querol.

He described the former Makati police chief as a "very professional officer," who defers to the wisdom and judgment of his superiors.

Irregular

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, an opposition stalwart who has allowed anti-Arroyo demonstrations in his city, said the transfer of Gutierrez was highly irregular.

"It appears that under the Arroyo regime, being police chief in a city where the mayor is a critic of an illegitimate ruler is dangerous to one's career," Binay had said.

He added: "The supervision and control of local executives over the local police, which is rather limited, is further limited."

Under the law, the mayor chooses the police chief from a short list provided by the Philippine National Police. The mayor also exercises supervisory powers over the operations of the local police. *With a report from Luige A. del Puerto*

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Draw Date	Deadline of Submission of Entries
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Viet boat people's long journey ends at LAX

LOS ANGELES - THE LONG journey of 229 Vietnamese boat people came to an end when they arrived in the United States after spending 16 years in the Philippines as stateless refugees.

The group arrived at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on a chartered flight from Manila at 5 p.m. Monday, but it took them more than two hours to clear customs, have their paperwork processed and begin leaving the airport.

They walked into the airport's international terminal to a tumultuous greeting from some 200 people, including many fellow refugees who had left the Philippines ahead of them. Many had to rush to make connecting flights to various cities around the United States where they plan to live.

"I've waited 16 years for this moment. It's hard for me to express my emotions right now. It's beyond happiness," said Hoang Tran, 39, who plans to settle permanently in Missouri.

One of the people on hand to greet the refugees was Lan Nguyen, who arrived in the United States with her husband four years ago after spending 15 years in the Philippines. She now lives in Garden Grove.

Closer than family

"We had gone through so much together. Some people became closer to me than my own family," she said of her fellow refugees. "We have such a special bond. We could talk for three or four days on end and we'd never run out of memories to share."

Monday's arrivals were the first of some 1,600 Vietnamese refugees expected to make their way to the US under an agreement allowing asylum-seekers scattered in the Philippines since 1989 to resettle in the United States.

The first group to arrive at the airport's international terminal held a huge red banner with white letters proclaiming, "Thank you, America, for welcoming us. Please help our brothers and sisters in the Philippines," a reference to about 300 people still there who have been denied permission to resettle.

Many Vietnamese left their homeland by boat after the communists defeated the South Vietnamese government in 1975. Others were allowed to leave in the 1980s under a US-sponsored program for Vietnamese whose fathers were believed to be US servicemen. Relatives of those refugees were also given approval to go.

Until March 1989, those who landed in refugee camps throughout Asia were automatically granted refugee status. After that, the United Nations refused to recognize them as refugees and seven years later cut off funding for Vietnamese camps throughout the region.

Forcible repatriation

Some countries began forcible repatriations back to Vietnam. In the Philippines, then-President Fidel Ramos allowed the Vietnamese to stay indefinitely under the supervision of the Roman Catholic Church, but they were not given permanent residency status or legal rights.

"You're living a half-life, being stateless," Hoi Trinh, a Vietnamese-Australian lawyer who spent eight years helping the refugees, said from his office in Manila. "You can't move for-



VIETNAMESE refugees in tearful reunion at the Los Angeles International Airport.

ward or backward. You're stuck because you're a nobody and don't belong anywhere or to anyone, therefore no one has to deal with you."

Over the years, several hundred refugees were resettled in the United States, Australia, Canada and Europe. But the vast majority remained in limbo in the Philippines as politicians and activists sought a resolution to their situation.

"I just thought it was so clearly wrong," said Sen. Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican who is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which held a hearing on the issue in February 2004.

'Right thing to do'

"The right thing to do was to grant them permanent status so they can get on with their lives," he said.

Last year, the United States announced a joint plan with the Philippines to offer resettlement to Vietnamese asylum-seekers.

Patrick Corcoran, a representative of the

International Organization for Migration, which helped in the transfer, said interviews by US immigration officials were ongoing. A total of 1,600 refugees were expected to be approved for resettlement, he said.

Trinh said about 300 others, including those with Filipino spouses, have been denied permission to resettle. Their fate remained uncertain because Philippine law prohibits anyone who entered the country illegally to

apply for permanent residency.

"It's a happy occasion but also a sad occasion, because there are still some people whose situation are still not yet resolved," Trinh said.

J. Kelly Ryan, deputy assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration, said her department was working with the Philippine government to find a solution for those with Filipino spouses.

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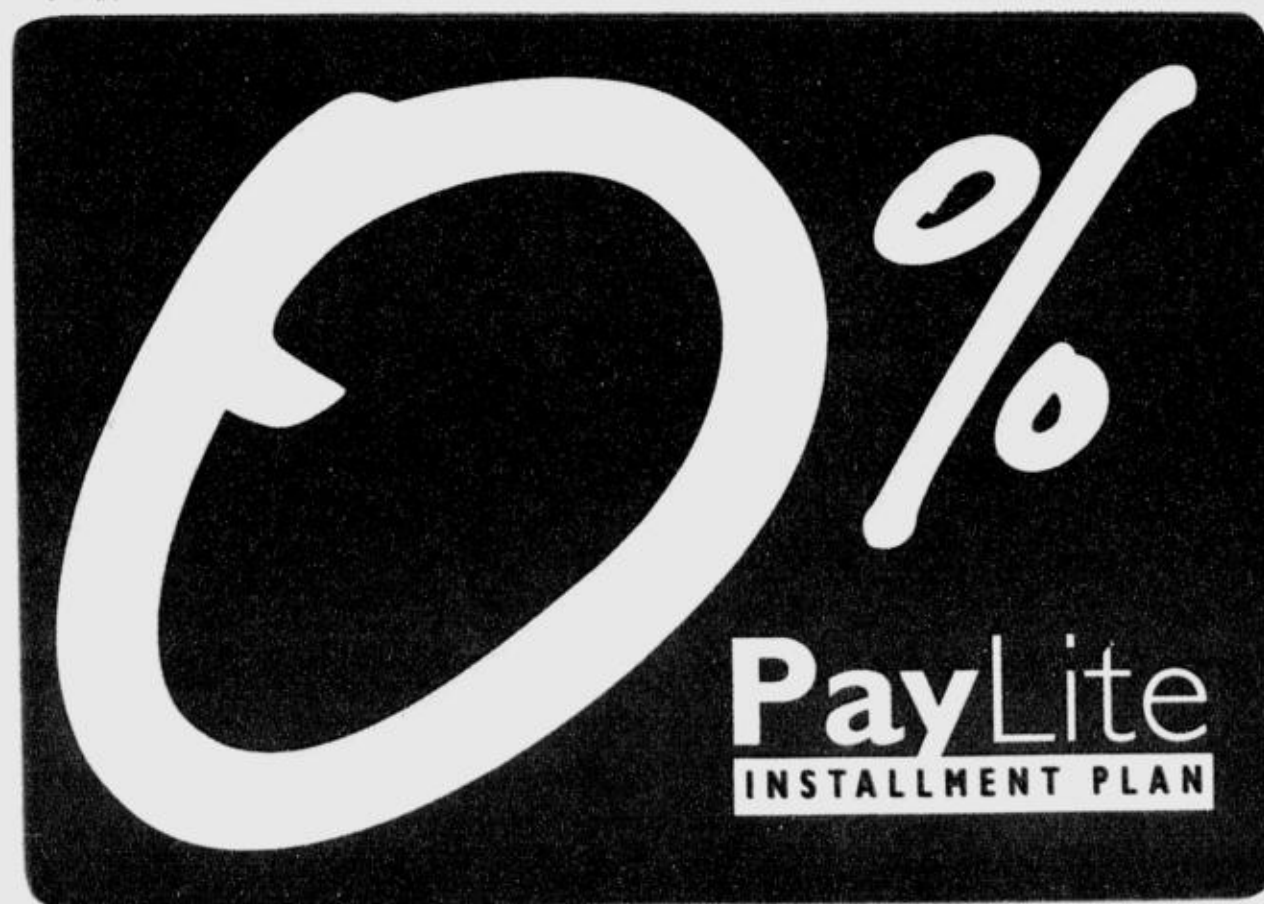
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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, September 28, 2005
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ne 2:1-8
Gospel: Luke 9:57-62

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

To another Jesus said, "Follow me." But he answered, "Let me go back now, for first I want to bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their dead; as for you, leave them and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Another said to him, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to my family." And Jesus said to him, "Whoever has put his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God."

Commentary

They continue on the way to Jerusalem and a man comes and says to Jesus that he'll follow him anywhere he goes. Jesus must look at him rather ruefully and realistically responds to him saying that the foxes and birds have places to rest, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. He will be utterly rejected and even be buried in a borrowed tomb. Others have other things more pressing and then they'll come: funerals, goodbyes to family, work, relationships—all sorts of things can get in the way, become a 'good' excuse to avoid following Jesus more closely. Jesus' words examine us: "Whoever has put their hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God!" How fit are we for God's work and reign in the world? Are we wafflers at best, good at excuses and fast with our words? And yet, Jesus still hopes that there will be some who come with him to Jerusalem.

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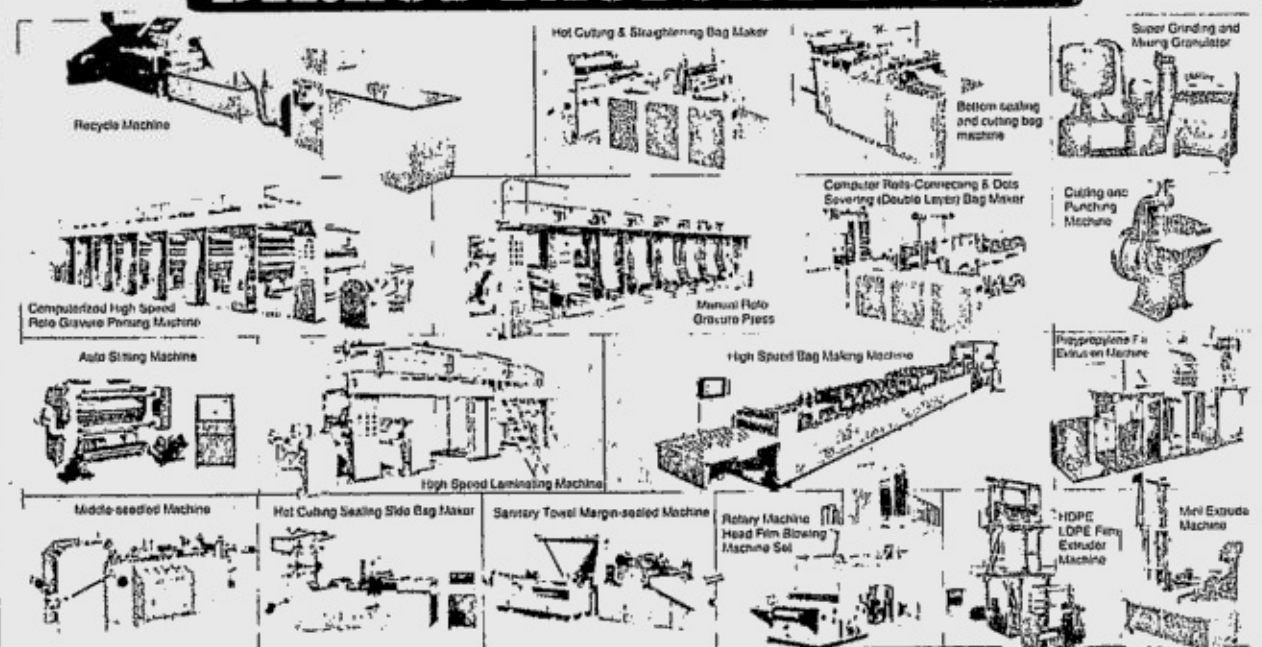
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MAGDALO COURT-MARTIAL

AFP spokesman apologizes

By Dona Pazzibugan

A SPOKESMAN OF the Armed Forces said he has apologized to the military tribunal handling the Oakwood mutiny case for preempting its decision.

Last month, the court-martial ordered Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, AFP Civil Relations Service chief, to make a public apology for saying last Aug. 25 that the court would never dismiss the case against the mutiny leaders.

At that time, the 29 "Magdalo" junior officers were asking the court to dismiss the case since it had allegedly prescribed without an arraignment.

"I did, I did. Yes, I complied immediately," Honrado said yesterday when asked whether he would make a public apology.

He said he issued a follow-up to his Aug. 25 statement, making his apology.

No such state-

ment, however, reached the media.

"The court said (I should apologize) so I apologized. Nobody is above the law," Honrado went on.

He said it did not matter whether or not he felt he did wrong.

"I'm a good soldier. I have spent 31 years (in the military) service... Whether you like it or not, that's the judgment of the court so we will follow," he added.

It was the first time that Honrado spoke to the media about the public apology issue.

Reporters had tried to get his side right after the court-martial presided over by Air Force Maj. Gen. Vicente Guerzon Jr. issued the order for his public apology, but Honrado was not available.

The court eventually decided to continue with the trial.

At yesterday's hearing, a defense lawyer walked out

after military prosecutors continued the arraignment process.

Defense lawyers said the proceedings were highly irregular since the prosecution panel can no longer repeat the arraignment since the case has already prescribed.

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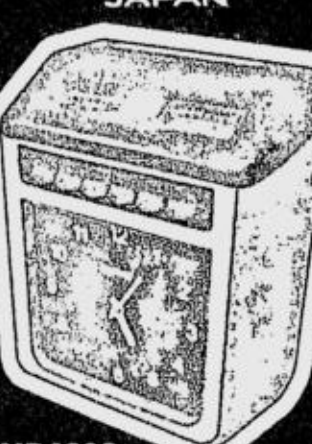
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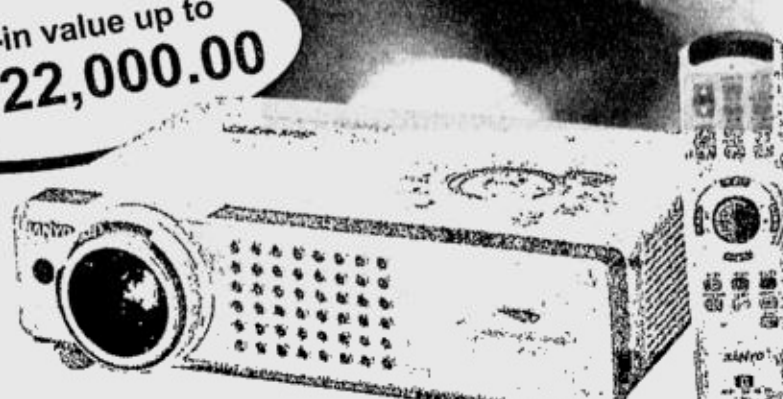
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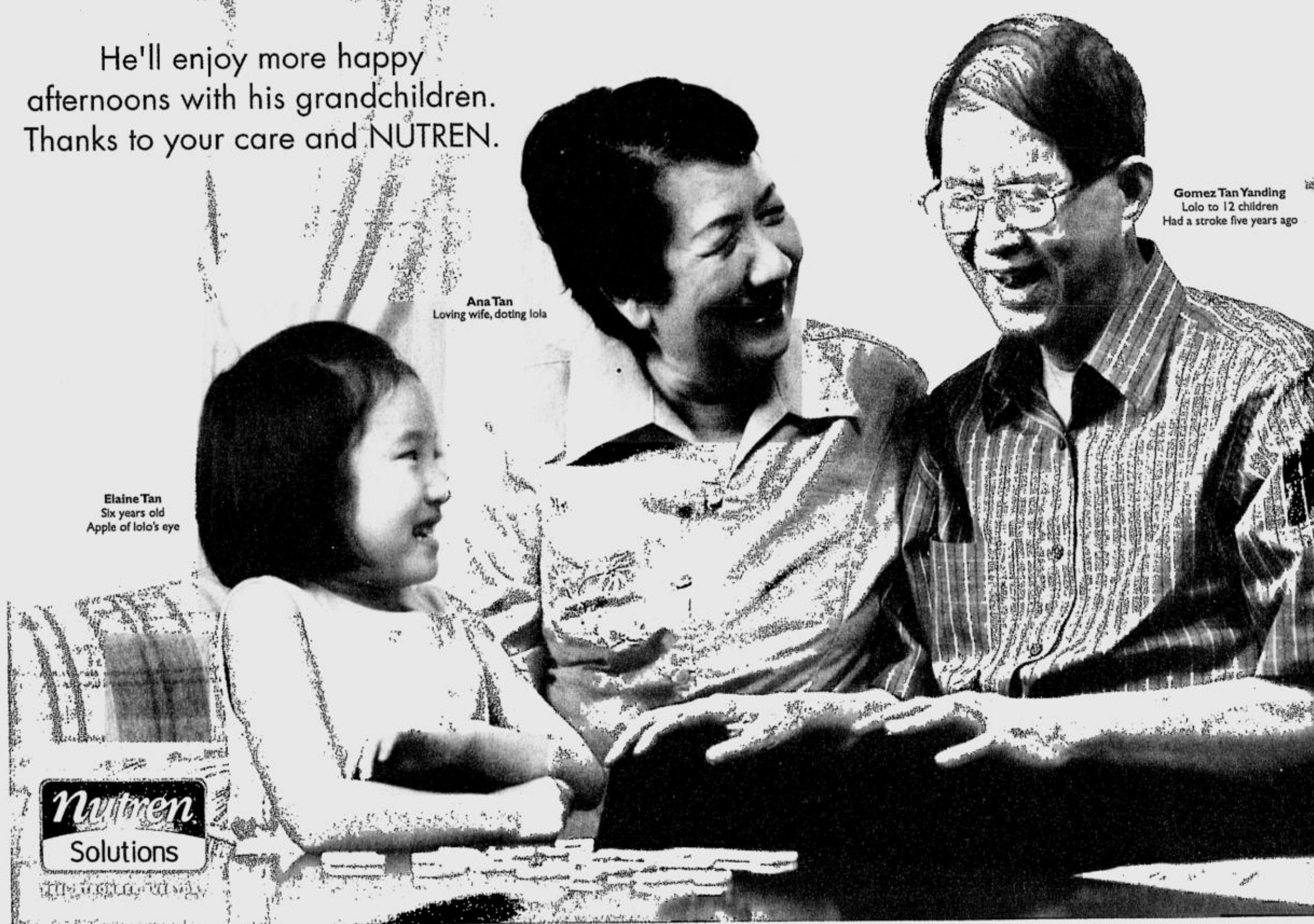
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Search goes on for hurricane victims

NEW ORLEANS—RESCUE HELICOPTERS SCoured FLOODED areas of southern Texas and Louisiana for victims of Hurricane Rita on Monday as New Orleans, devastated by Hurricane Katrina a month ago, reopened again to storm-weary residents.

At least nine people were reported dead from Rita but many remained missing in small towns along the west Louisiana coast that took the full force of Saturday's storm, which packed winds of 195 km an hour.

Flood waters receded but military helicopters, coast guard boats and volunteers criss-crossed the battered region for a second day amid fears many more people remained stranded.

After a month of chaos and tragedy since Katrina claimed more than 1,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless, there was fresh hope for New Orleans as residents returned to begin rebuilding after the killer storm.

"With Hurricane Rita behind us, the task at hand is to bring New Orleans back. We want people to return and help us rebuild the

city," said Mayor Ray Nagin.

Cars streamed back to the least damaged neighborhood of Algiers, on the west bank of the Mississippi River, which was the first to reopen following the second compulsory evacuation before Hurricane Rita at the weekend.

Business owners from the historic French Quarter, Uptown and Central Business District were also allowed to return. The rest of the devastated city remained under mandatory evacuation.

The repopulation of New Orleans, a flooded ghost town since Hurricane Katrina hit on Aug. 29, was cruelly suspended last week as Hurricane Rita threatened to repeat the dose.

But Rita failed to deliver a knockout punch and, while causing renewed flooding to some areas of New Orleans, left the rav-

aged city of jazz largely alone.

Small towns and rural areas along the US Gulf Coast, an area dotted with oil refineries and chemical plants, bore the brunt of Rita's fury and state rescue officials described scenes of "mass destruction" across large swathes of territory.

Rescue workers' worst fears were realized when five members of a Texas family were reportedly found dead in their Beaumont apartment, suspected victims of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator used during the storm.

The Beaumont Enterprise newspaper also reported that a 43-year-old man and a 56-year-old woman in Liberty County, Texas, died after a tree crushed their mobile home.

The latest deaths took the toll of storm-related deaths to at least nine.

Up to 2,500 people were rescued from Vermilion Parish alone during the weekend, authorities said. More were saved in other western Louisiana districts from rooftops and even alligator-infested swamps.



RECEDING flood waters from Hurricane Rita leave a casket stuck in a tree a few hundred yards from a cemetery in Grand Chenier Sept. 26. AP

IRA gives up its weapons in historic move

BELFAST—NORTHERN IRELAND'S PARAMILITARY Irish Republican Army, which fought for decades against British rule, has destroyed all of its weapons, an international panel said Monday in an historic announcement that takes the region a major step closer to lasting peace.

The news, supported by a separate IRA statement, was immediately hailed by British Prime Minister Tony Blair as "an important development" in ending more than three decades of violence.

Ireland and the United States also strongly welcomed the move.

However, the province's main Protestant party dismissed the report, saying it was based on "duplicitous and dishonesty." General John de Chastelain, the retired Canadian military chief overseeing the disarmament process, detailed the so-called weapons decommissioning in a report to the British and Irish governments.

"We are satisfied that the arms decommissioned represent the totality of the IRA's arsenal," De Chastelain, who witnessed the process along with two church representatives, told a press conference in Belfast.

"Over the past number of weeks, the mem-

bers of the commission have engaged with the IRA representatives in the execution of our mandate to decommission arms," he said.

"We have now reported to the British and Irish governments that we have observed and verified events to put beyond use very large quantities of arms which we believe include all the arms in the IRA possession." De Chastelain said the weapons put beyond use—including surface-to-air missiles, flame throwers, machine guns, explosives and other arms—matched estimates of the Catholic paramilitary group's arsenal produced by British and Irish security forces. AFP

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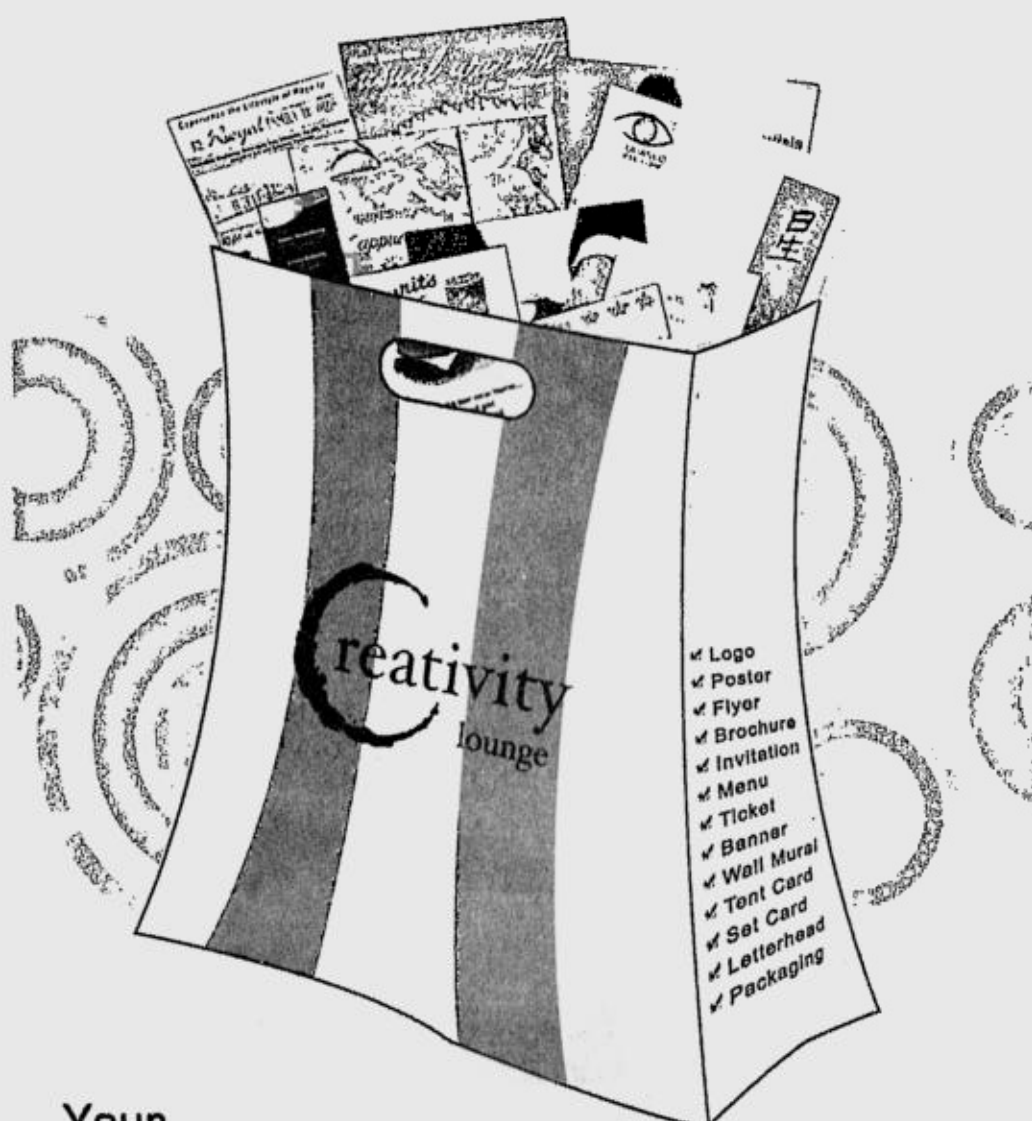
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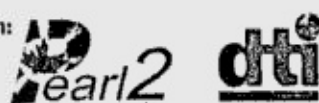
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9/11 plotter jailed

MADRID—THE SYRIAN head of an al-Qaida cell based in Spain was jailed Monday for his role in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, at the end of the biggest trial to date in Europe involving Osama bin Laden's network.

Spain's High Court also jailed 17 other people, including a reporter for the Al-Jazeera television station, for between six and 11 years.

In a verdict that stretched to 445 pages, Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, alias Abu Dahdah, was sentenced to 27 years jail for conspiring to commit murder in the Sept. 11 attacks which killed nearly 3,000 people.

He was regarded as the head of a Spanish-based al-Qaida cell that had been under investigation since 1995.

Dahdah was jailed for 13 years for complicity in the US attacks and 12 for belonging to a terrorist organization.

"His participation was not proven regarding the execution of the attacks," the judges ruled, but the verdict indicated that he was linked to "al-Qaida's macabre designs."

The prosecution had accused Dahdah and a Moroccan, Driss Chebli, of arranging a July 2001 meeting in Tarragona, northeastern Spain, attended by Mohamed Atta, ringleader of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

Prosecutor Pedro Rubira said the meeting "probably determined the date of the attacks on the United States." Chebli was given six years in jail after being found guilty of collaborating with al-Qaida. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Polio vaccination

JAKARTA—Indonesia on Tuesday embarked on a second round of vaccinations targeting more than 23 million children to curb a major polio outbreak. Hundreds of thousands of health workers were deployed nationwide to make sure that children younger than five were immunized against the crippling disease, which has infected 240 Indonesian youngsters since March. The vaccines were administered in 245,000 posts at community centers and even airports, bus depots and railway stations, officials said. Health ministry spokesperson Sumardi said early turnout was good. **AFP**

Iran threatens retaliation

TEHRAN—Iran on Monday threatened to restart uranium enrichment and to stop allowing UN snap inspections of its atomic facilities, if moves to send it to the UN Security Council were not reversed. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Saturday passed a resolution requiring that Tehran be reported to the council for possible sanctions, after Iran failed to convince the world its atomic ambitions were entirely peaceful. "Unless the resolution is corrected or if its implementation is insisted upon, Iran will be forced to cancel all its voluntary and temporary measures including implementation of the Additional Protocol," said a foreign ministry statement. **Reuters**

French antiterror law

PARIS—France is set to approve a series of new antiterrorism measures including increased use of video-surveillance and improved police access to Internet and mobile telephone records amid a heightened threat of terrorism, the interior ministry said Monday. "The terrorist threat is there, and it is at a very high level," Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said in an interview with France 3 television. When pressed on the level of risk in a range from one to five, he responded: "More likely 4 than 3." **AFP**

Netanyahu concedes defeat

TEL AVIV—Benjamin Netanyahu conceded defeat in Monday's Likud Party ballot, but said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cannot ignore the strong opposition against him within the party. Netanyahu said Monday's vote, in which Likud members narrowly rejected his proposal to hold an early party primary, was a setback for his campaign to oust Sharon. He said he is still committed to running in next spring's primary. "We lost by a very few votes. There is a very large camp that went against the flow, against the wind, against the pressure, against the leadership and against the temptations," he said. **AP**

Malaysia bracing for dengue fever outbreak

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA—MALAYSIA said Tuesday it is bracing for an outbreak of dengue fever, and announced measures to kill mosquitos to control the disease that has claimed 70 lives so far this year.

In the past week, 752 suspected cases were recorded nationwide compared to the typical weekly average of

400 cases, Health Minister Chua Soi Lek told reporters. Most of the cases were in Malaysia's biggest city, Kuala Lumpur, and the states of Selangor and Penang, he said.

"With the number of cases rising we want to warn the people to beware. We want to tell the people that the outbreak is coming," he said.

Health officials have recorded 70 deaths so far this year due to the mosquito-borne disease, compared to 68 in the first nine months of last year. A total of 102 people died of dengue last year.

"Based on the present trend, the

number of deaths this year will definitely be higher than last year's," Chua said. **AP**

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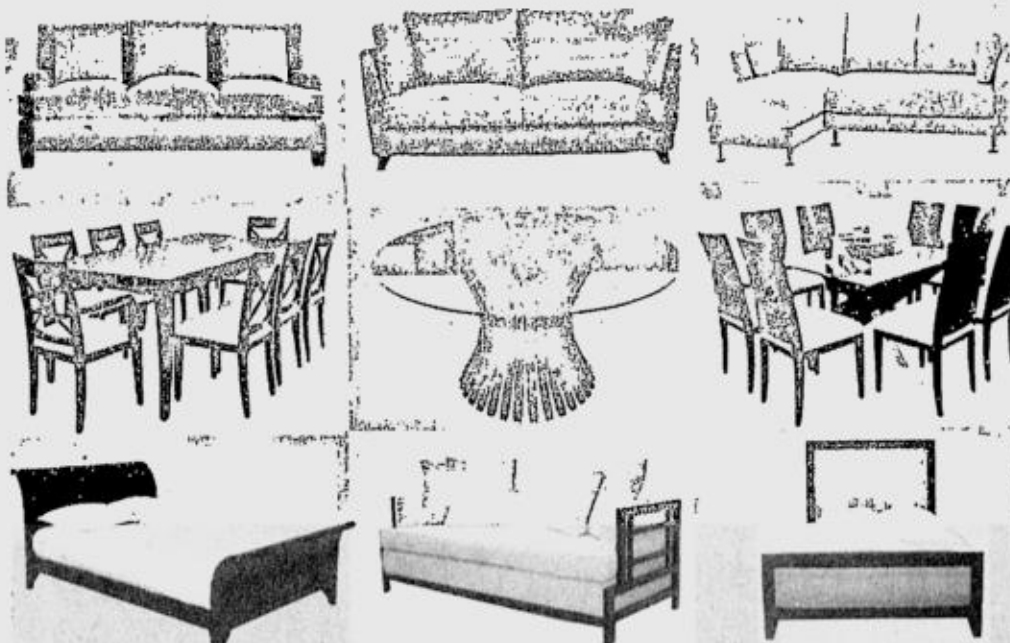
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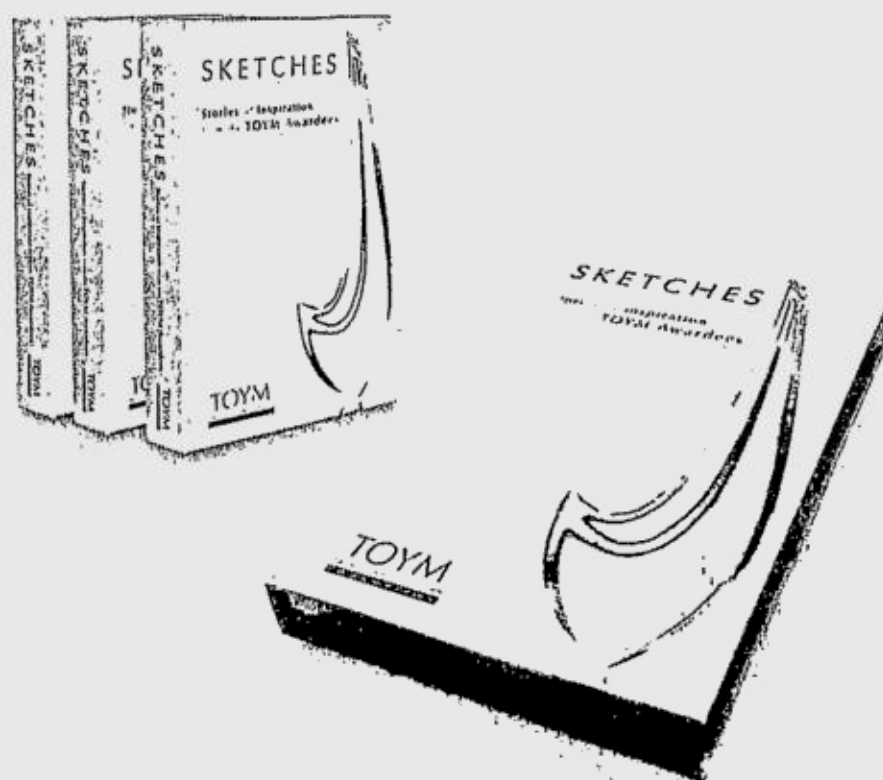
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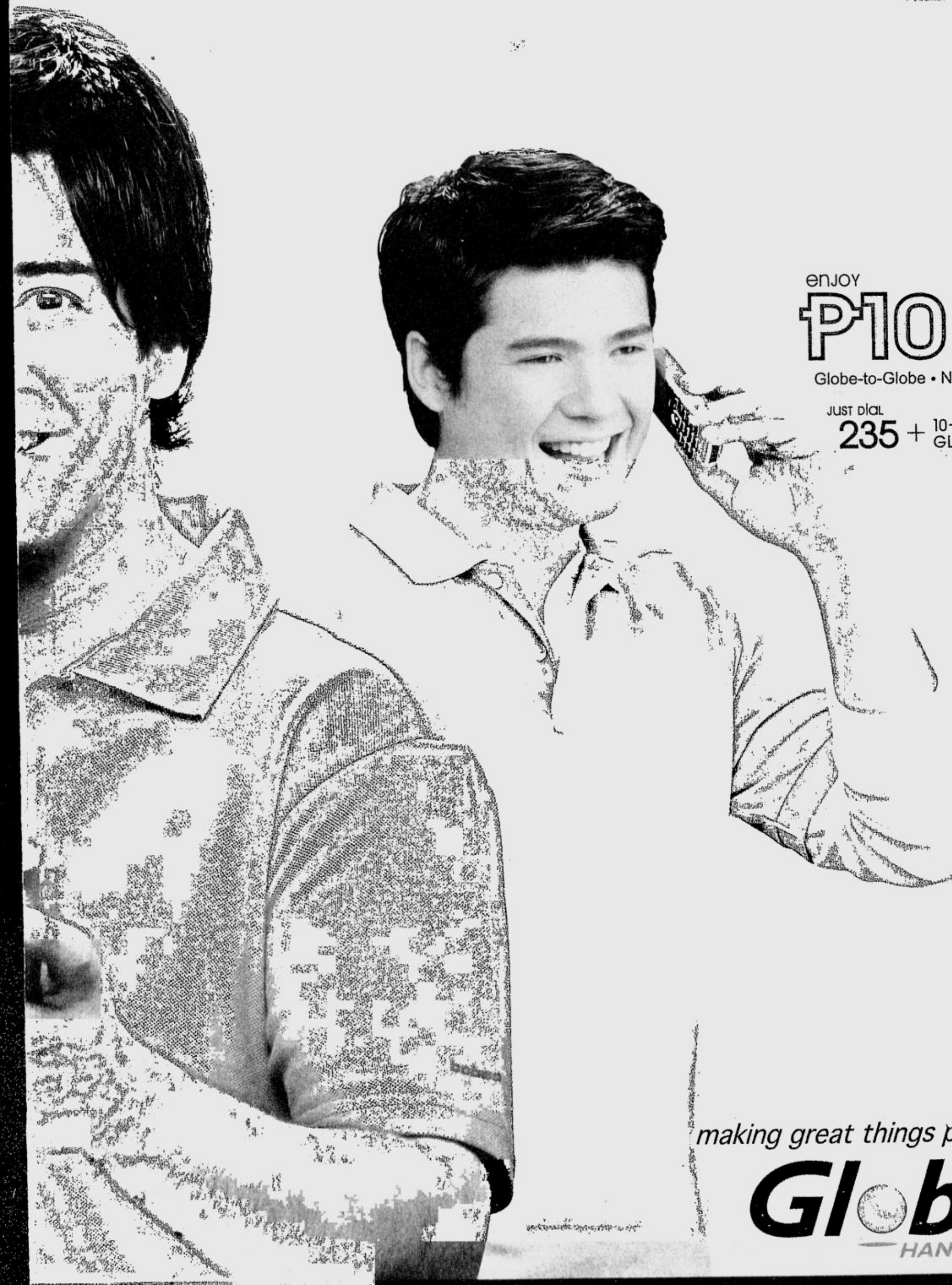
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Empty doctrine

THE CONCEPT OF A NATIONAL SECURITY DOCTRINE owes to initiatives undertaken by US President Harry S. Truman in 1947. There were profound changes in the American defense structure (Department of National Defense replaced the Department of War), foreign policy and intelligence agencies (particularly the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency), with the National Security Council made as the vehicle for coordinating national security policy. The American concept of national security and the apparatus to sustain it were rapidly copied by other governments all over the world. President Carlos P. Garcia became the first Philippine president to establish a National Security Council. We have had an NSC ever since.

Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as "The Administrative Code of 1987," was enacted during the time of President Corazon Aquino, while she was yet vested with sweeping powers, prior to the ratification of the 1987 Constitution. It retained and formalized the National Security Council (Title VII, Chapter 2), assigning to that agency the following responsibilities: "The formulation of integrated and rationalized national, foreign, military, political, economic, social and educational policies, programs, and procedures vital to the security of the state." Its members include the President, Vice President, the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Security Adviser, and such other government officers or private individuals that the President may appoint. Traditionally, beginning with President Garcia's invitation to former President Sergio Osmeña to be a member, former presidents have sat in the National Security Council.

Going back to the United States, which started the national security apparatus idea, it has periodically revised its national security doctrines, publishing these for the guidance of both the American officials and the public, as well as the world.

The latest revision was undertaken by the present Bush administration. The principles behind the new doctrine boil down to the following salient points: an "Overview of America's International Strategy"; "Champion Aspirations for Human Dignity"; "Strengthen Alliances to Defeat Global Terrorism and Work to Prevent Attacks Against Us and Our Friends"; "Work With Others to Defuse Regional Conflicts"; "Prevent Our Enemies from Threatening Us, Our Allies, and Our Friends with Weapons of Mass Destruction"; "Ignite a New Era of Global Economic Growth through Free Markets and Free Trade"; "Expand the Circle of Development by Opening Societies and Building the Infrastructure of Democracy"; "Develop Agendas for Cooperative Action with the Other Main Centers of Global Power"; and "Transform America's National Security Institutions to Meet the Challenges and Opportunities of the Twenty-First Century."

These headings by themselves give a rather thorough overview of American strategic interests, available to friend or foe alike. Which leads us to ask: Where is the Philippine equivalent? The Philippine concept of national security seems to be more obsessed with cloak-and-dagger operations rather than with genuine policy-making. We have been subjected to the workings of a national security adviser; Norberto Gonzalez is the latest in a line of advisers who seem to think they should simply dispense advice on a case-to-case basis, rather than according to the thought-out and spelled-out security interests of the country.

If, for example, the rescinded Venable contract was a matter of national security (which presumably it was, since the national security adviser signed it), why, then, did Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, all of whom are members of the National Security Council, all claim not to know about the contract? There are many questions that still need answering; but the most fundamental question of all is, does the Philippines have a national security policy? If so, where is it? Even in broad strokes, the public has not been informed of one; neither has it been given access to such policy. Whichever, both cases are definitely wrong.



How cheating was done in 2004 polls

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: THE ANSWER TO THE present political crisis is in the hands of the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) and in the electoral protest of opposition vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro. President Macapagal-Arroyo's problems emanated from a question of legitimacy. Is she the legitimately elected President? Or is she a fake President? The people's faith in her as the duly elected President was rudely shaken by the discovery of the "Hello Garci" tapes where she was caught in conversations with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, plotting to cheat in the last elections.

Fernando Poe Jr. died before his poll protest, alleging fraud and cheating in the last elections, could be heard, and the petition of his wife Susan Roces to substitute for him was dismissed by the PET. The question of who really won, GMA or FPJ, was left unresolved. Former Senator Legarda, claiming her rival, VP De Castro, also cheated in the polls, filed an election protest. The protest of Legarda has started to move—after lying dormant in the PET for more than a year—and she is optimistic that the recount of the votes in six pilot provinces would be finished in six months.

How does that affect the question of GMA's legitimacy? Also on the same election returns where the votes for the vice presidential candidates are recorded are the votes for GMA and FPJ. It would take no more than several seconds to look at the votes cast for the presidential candidates after tallying the votes for Noli and Loren. Thus, the questions of who won in both the presidential and vice presidential races could be resolved at the same time. For the cheating was a "Cheat One, Cheat Two" operation.

While it is true that there is no valid poll protest in the presidential contest, the PET can exercise judicial statesmanship in recounting the presidential votes at the same time it does with the votes for VP in order to resolve the crisis that is ripping the nation apart. The opposition can petition for the reopening of the FPJ poll protest, and GMA—if she really won "fair and square" as she claims—should welcome it

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz



as that would finally prove her legitimacy. If she opposed it, that could mean only one thing: a recount would reveal the cheating.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Legarda and her principal witness, Segundo Tabayoyong, showed the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday how the cheating was done. It was simplicity itself and very easy to do. It was a new way of cheating, used for the first time in the elections of 2004. (Tabayoyong was a Questioned Document Examiner and former chief of the Questioned Documents Division of the National Bureau of Investigation. He has retired.)

Instead of changing the ballots at the precincts—as was done in the past, which is difficult and labor-intensive—the cheating was done on the election return (ER), the summary of the votes in the precincts. Election returns of a city or municipality are totaled in the Statement of Votes (SOV) which are, in turn, summarized in the Certificate of Canvass (COC) for the province. It is the COCs that are added by Congress to determine the presidential and vice presidential winners.

What the cheaters did—Legarda and Tabayoyong explained—was simply fill up new election returns, disregarding the ballots. These spurious ERs were prepared in advance, by a special force of about 200 persons in two places in Metro Manila (one in a hotel near Edsa) and then sent to the provinces. Thus, the votes were already counted and the "winners" known even before the voting started. It didn't matter for whom the people voted. It was the special force who decided the winners.

The Commission on Elections has admitted that it overprinted 32,000 sets of these ERs before the elections. It has not explained fully

what happened to these excess ERs. It is believed that these were the same fake ERs used by the cheating team. It was a systematic, well-financed, well managed and well-supervised operation by professional cheaters, Legarda and Tabayoyong said.

The cheaters, however, made mistakes. And that gave them away. ERs supposedly coming from areas thousands of kilometers apart were filled in by the same hands, according to Tabayoyong. The vertical tally bars (taras) used to mark the votes on the ERs were written very neatly and not in the uneven manner when written in the precincts because of stress and haste. There are columns where there are totals of votes but no bars. There are totals that do not tally with the bars. Thumb marks used to close the columns—so no new bars could be added afterwards—were small, purposely smudged to make identification impossible. Required signatures were missing. Some had only initials instead of signatures.

Of the approximately 5,000 ERs analyzed, 3,000 were found to be spurious.

The analysis also showed that the team gave De Castro an average of a 70-vote margin over Legarda, and GMA, a 100-vote margin over FPJ. Therefore, the 32,000 sets of overprinted ERs could translate to a vote-margin rate of approximately 2.1 million votes in the Legarda-De Castro contest and around 3 million votes in the FPJ-GMA race. Thus, De Castro and GMA had something like 2 million votes and 3 million votes, respectively, for "insurance." Even if their rivals won in other areas, the insurance votes made sure GMA and De Castro won in the totals.

TODAY'S JOKE: Terrorists kidnapped GMA and demanded ransom money.

"Pay us P500 million or we will set her on fire," demanded the ransom note.

The bankrupt government asked the people for donations. So far, the donations totaled 2,000 liters of gasoline.

PS: A group of businessmen offered to donate another 2,000 liters if FVR and JDV were included.

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



way. They were rejected.

There is nothing like that today. Right now, the unarticulated and anguished, cry of the nation is: Oust Gloria, then what? The line of succession cannot be followed because Noli de Castro is a beneficiary of GMA's cheating and because the position of president was never vacated, it was never occupied. There is no affirmation contained in the negation. That's what has caught the nation in its vise, causing paralysis.

That cannot be broken by all this talk of a transitional government or council of elders, revolutionary or not, eclectic or not, representative or not. And I am truly begging you to put all that aside. The idea of a transitional whatever is the same thing as the reality of a fake president: It has no legitimacy. It will rule without a mandate from the people, like GMA. Why should that inspire anybody to want to take to the streets? It is not inspiring hope, it is stoking fear. And you wonder why the people are apathetic.

You want to rekindle the fires of rage and dreams, there is only one call, and that is (credible) elections. I agree you have to prepare for that—which means lining up the current Comelec commissioners against the wall, metaphorically or literally—and some group has to do it. But only for that: the faster elections are held, the better. I myself cannot abide a preparatory group that lasts beyond a couple of months or so. You cannot agree on something so basic, you can dream all you want about the miraculous changes you will work upon the country once you are in power, but it will take a miracle for you to un-stick Ate Glue from her seat.

I disagree that elections, however credible won't go very far in solving the problems of the country. At the very least it will un-stick Ate Glue faster, and that is far enough by itself. You will notice—if you have not buried your nose under piles of agenda—that Ate Glue is veering the country toward martial law, if she has not done so already. If the Firm can forcibly un-stick my colleague in this space, Raul Pangalangan, from his position as dean of UP Law then it can un-stick anything, including even vestige of democracy from this country.

More than that, elections answer completely the question of legitimacy. Which is, to repeat, the real issue: It is not about GMA's performance, it is about her legitimacy. It is not: whether she is messing up the country or not, it is whether she has a right to. Logic 101: The problem is that GMA cheated in the election and we have no rightful president. The answer is to have new elections and have a rightful president. The problem is that GMA stole the vote from the voters. The answer is to give the voters back their vote. The problem is that the people have been silenced. The answer is to let the people speak.

I go back to my earlier question: Is People Power still possible?

I have little doubt that given the spark of outrage and the flame of inspiration, Filipinos will always take to the streets to right a huge wrong done them. Today's apathy is not natural, it is induced, not least by you yourselves. But quite apart from that, why should People Power express itself only by people talking to the streets? I do not know why at the late date, you have not called on the citizens to fight tyranny with civil disobedience. The people can express their power in many ways, not least by refusing to be real citizens to a fake president. We are not powerless before someone who insists on ruling us without our consent. We can always refuse to be ruled. We can always be adamant before the arrogant. We can always do what we tell our kids to do when they are offered drugs:

Just say no.

The rebirth of Utopia

COMMENTARY

Rapbaël Hadas-Label

GERMANY'S DIVISIVE ELECTION, LIKE THE French referendum on the European Constitution this past May, has exposed deep ideological cleavages—not only about Europe, but about the very foundations of society and the economy. Behind the critiques directed at the European Union as “not being social enough,” lurked an image of the EU as a trap that is forcing its members to bend to the fateful disciplines of the market, thus depriving national leaders of their ability to realize important social goals.

In France, this division is evident not only on the extremes of right and left, and in traditionally nationalist Gaullist circles, but also among most socialist voters, who decided to spurn the party leadership's pro-European stance.

This fundamental debate is not about to abate. On the contrary, as the German election showed—and with a presidential election looming in France—the debate has intensified.

In France, this intensity is particularly visible within Socialist ranks. With preparations for the party's November congress in full swing, a conflict that goes back to the party's founding is reappearing. On one side is a social-democratic vision, which basically favors the market economy but seeks to alleviate its harsher effects; on the other side stands a radical vision that extols a revolutionary “break with capitalism.”

With the disappearance of the communist world and the failure of its collectivist policies, one would think that this debate had been resolved in favor of the reformist vision. But the surprise of the last few months is that an important part of the Socialist electorate and party leaders back radical change.

Moreover, a substantial portion of the broader anti-liberal left, composed of communists, ecologists, union activists, and adherents of the movement Attac, accuse the reformists of subordinating themselves to liberal globalization; they advocate, instead, a radical transformation of society and the economy.

The media success of Olivier Besancenot, a 31-

year-old representative of the most intransigent section of the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist League, reflects the power of this dream. Having received over 4 percent of the vote during the first round of the presidential election of 2002, Besancenot is now, according to opinion polls, the 38th most popular person in France.

Interestingly, an echo of the ideas mooted by radical anti-globalists can be found in some initiatives coming from the right. President Jacques Chirac of France and leftist President Lula da Silva of Brazil support a tax on airline tickets designed to finance poor countries' development. Similarly, the centrist leader François Bayrou has proposed imposing a “Tobin tax” (named after its creator, the Nobel laureate economist James Tobin) on financial transactions, with the proceeds to be used to support socially worthy causes.

How do we explain this resurgent radicalism, which seems to ignore European and international political realities?

One might suspect the influence of French political traditions which, on the right as much as on the left, always prefer purity of principle to messy compromise. Add to this the congenial French mistrust of liberalism—indeed, French is one of the rare languages in which the word “liberalism” has a pejorative connotation—joined to an equally deep-rooted perception of the State (again, on both the right and the left) as the defender of the general interest par excellence. While pragmatism has come to dominate northern Europe's socialist parties since the 1930s—and Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) as well (after the 1957 Congress of Bad Godesberg)—a preference for revolutionary ideology has always prevailed, at least on the rhetor-

ical level, among French socialists.

But this cannot be the whole explanation, because a similar radicalization is occurring within Germany's left. With the evident failure of both leftist and rightist governments to stem the rising wave of unemployment, a growing part of the French and German electorates no longer seems to believe in traditional solutions.

The welfare state, largely associated with the reformist social-democratic movement, is now reaching its limits in the form of uncontrolled public deficits and unsupportable levels of taxation. Similarly, the social mobility once fostered by the welfare state has suffered serious reverses. Globalized markets are viewed as bringing more inequalities, austerity, and insecurity than the promised benefits of economic growth.

In this disenchanted environment, dreams of utopia thrive. But it is a fundamental characteristic of utopias that they cannot be implemented.

What is now needed is a more modest debate about how to reconcile the deficiencies of the market with the demands of solidarity. Should the state confine itself to creating an economic environment favorable to private enterprise? How extensively should it contribute to security, education, research, innovation, and protection of the poor?

But such debates can be fruitful only if the economic and political constraints are recognized. Indeed, the role of the state is made more complicated by the fact that market regulation is becoming less national and more transnational.

Instead of throwing up our hands in despair, we should adhere to a distinction dear to the great German sociologist Max Weber, for now is a time when the ethics of responsibility must prevail over the ethics of conviction.

Project Syndicate

Rapbaël Hadas-Label, author of “101 Words about French Democracy,” is president of the Social Chamber of the Conseil d'Etat and associate professor at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris.

Singing proud

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL FRONT PAGE THE INQUIRER had on Monday, featuring the triumphant return of the UP Singing Ambassadors after they won several prizes during a tour of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy and Spain.

Sure, I'm biased, being part of the INQUIRER and UP, but really, we need to give more publicity to the way our chorale groups excel internationally. Far too much attention has been given to trying Filipino-Americans competing in “American Idol,” at the cost of forgetting how, for the longest time now, our chorale groups—from the UP Singing Ambassadors to the Loboc Children's Choir—have been drawing accolades worldwide.

Coincidentally, just last weekend I was at one of the Tower Records outlets looking for CDs of the UP Madrigal Singers. I was doing this because an American friend had requested for one of their CDs. I couldn't find any at Tower Records. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the Cultural Center's bookshop still has a copy of a UP Madrigal Singers cassette issued several years back. The cassette, incidentally, was produced in South Korea. If I remember right the Cultural Center shop also had a CD of the University of Santo Tomas Singers, recorded in Germany.

Pinoy icon

Why the local neglect of our chorale groups? Partly it's because of our disdain for classical music, which is still seen as high-brow and elitist. But many people are unaware that these chorale groups have a wide repertoire, including folk songs and contemporary music. No rap, of course, but they come close with some songs.

There's irony to the neglect of our chorale groups because we're always forming such groups. If two Filipinos were marooned on an island, they'd form a duet and if there are three of them, they'd form a trio. Five and they'd have a choir, complete with altos and tenors and sopranos.

Think about all the glee clubs and choirs and chorales in our schools, offices and, of course, churches. People will stay after 5, use their weekends for rehearsals, and pool money together for their costumes, and even go out of town to compete with other groups.

The chorale groups serve many social functions, fostering camaraderie, building a corporate identity, and who knows how many romantic relationships were developed from all those hours spent together, singing out from their hearts and gazing at each other's eyes.

Chorale groups are “us,” a Pinoy icon. Visit filipino-links.com/music/choral_groups/more2.html and you'll find a list of the more popular ones, with links to websites. You'll find several groups from the University of the Philippines, as well as those from Ateneo and the University of Sto. Tomas. And you'll find websites as well of Filipino chorale groups based overseas, in Dubai, in North Carolina. Why, there's even a group of UST Singers based out in Wisconsin.

And if you're living overseas, make sure to visit the site of UP Concert Chorus, where there are audio downloads for religious songs, Filipino folk songs, and UP Naming Mahal. There's nothing more effectively nostalgic than a Filipino chorale group's performance.

Discipline

Chorale groups tell us a lot about society. To get a chorale group going, you need a high degree of social conformity. It's not surprising that the largest chorale groups in the world are found in authoritarian countries, where hundreds of people can be herded together to sing out praise to some Great Leader.

The larger choirs also tend to be affiliated with religions emphasizing more conformity. Think of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir with its 360 singers. (There's also an orchestra with 110 musicians.)

What do the Filipino chorale groups say about the Pinoy? The good ones belie the stereotype that Filipinos are undisciplined and can't work together. It's amazing how we're able to blend so many types of voices in a way that can send people's spirits soaring. To get there, these groups have to put in many hours of rehearsals, involving driven singers and obsessive compulsive choirmasters.

But the chorale groups show another side of the Filipino, and this is, paradoxically, the anarchist, the individualist in us. Yes, we can blend, but only to some extent. Our chorale groups are not made to perform political propaganda songs, as was shown in the atrocious New Society songs during the Marcos era. There was no punch, no soul to it all.

With grand sacred music, like Handel's Messiah, we do fairly well, but I've always sensed, too, that genre is still a bit too “monumental” for us, Filipinos, so the renditions will have many flat moments. The music doesn't ring out as well as it does when performed, for example, by a German group.

With a flair

And that's because the Germans are Germans and we're Filipino. We do well with sacred music intended for smaller groups. We do well with African-American spirituals, and with our folk songs and contemporary pieces because they allow some freedom for the anarchist in us. We do well when the music allows us to move our bodies, still in rhythm with the music and with fellow performers, but allowing the individual some room for innovation. (Watch the next chorale performance and you'll detect at least one individual overdoing “my own thing” and coming through as a ham; but the chorale groups will capitalize on these characters, giving them comic roles.)

The sometimes harsh discipline of eastern Asian societies—China, Korea, Japan—has produced many world-class individual musicians, with the help of governments subsidizing the training of these artists. In the Philippines, our chorale groups are telling us something about a different strength: the ability to work together in a disciplined way, yet allowing enough individual freedom and creativity to yield a special flair to our chorale groups' performances.

If government and the private sector were to pour more resources into building up our chorale groups, we just might find some of the groups' ethos—a love of work, and of life—rubbing off into our national psyche. The reason so many schools encourage glee clubs and choirs is because they do instill discipline, but in a fun way.

Meanwhile, we might want to be thinking about how the nation might improve if we could become more like the best of our chorale groups. Too much rigidity and conformity, like the artificial “unity” and “strong republic” rhetoric of our leaders, just don't work out. But neither do competing voices, each singing out their own tune to produce a destructive cacophony. We can and should sing out with many voices but with a common vision. Maybe someday, like our singing ambassadors everywhere, we, as a nation, can sing out loud, sing out proud.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

China's ‘yuppie corps’

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



BEIJING—AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ECONOMIC restructuring taking place in the “Reform Era” in China is the transformation of State ministries into government-owned and controlled corporations. The re-tooling of bureaucratic institutions into corporations (run with private-sector efficiency and competitiveness) has enabled China to compete with the rest of the world, not just in providing goods and services to its own huge population, but also in going head-to-head with multinationals in the global arena.

Crucial to China's strategy to leap into the age of globalization is the appointment of young, well-educated and aggressive leaders to head the country's flagship firms. Together with the most successful private-sector entrepreneurs, they constitute what has been dubbed as “China's yuppie corps.”

A study published in the “China Leadership Monitor” describes this new economic elite as “party-legitimated entrepreneurs,” most of whom have been trained in engineering or economics and business administration; some of them hold post-graduate degrees from Western universities. Most are male, city-born and -bred; the majority are below 45 years old. One might also call them the elite of the post-Cultural Revolution generation, Chinese who have no experience or just vague memories of their country's political upheavals.

The rise of the “yuppie corps” promises more than economic changes. “The rapid rise of young business executives may also broaden the way in which political leaders are chosen,” the study says. While the political and Party leadership has traditionally been held by individuals who gained experience and power by rising through the political ranks, the economic elite suggest a way to leapfrog the local-to-national politics route. Already, a number of CEOs have been appointed to sit in the People's Assembly and even in the Party Congress, bringing a different sensibility to Chinese governance.

“The transformation of social and economic life in China during the Reform Era is eventually a tale of redistribution of power, wealth and prestige,” says the study. “Chinese entrepreneurs' growing influence in Chinese society, their relations with other elite and social groups, their own

diversified characteristics, and the implications of the rise of this group for the outside world should attract much more attention among China-watchers in the future.”

OUR group of journalists met one such member of China's “yuppie corps” Sunday evening. Ren Hongbin is the chair of the China Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group) or CNMEG, a state-owned enterprise that arose five years ago from the Ministry of Machinery Industry.

An engineer, Ren was just 38 when he was appointed to head CNMEG, which consolidates 62 companies engaged in science, industry, construction, manufacturing, engineering, trade and finance; and leads the way in research and development. It has 33,000 employees, with an annual turnover of \$4.67 billion.

Over a Peking Duck dinner in a historic restaurant, Ren spoke proudly of the scope of CNMEG's operations, which includes construction of a number of structures for the Beijing Olympics in 2008, the manufacture of crucial components for spacecraft, and the construction of the “Three Gorges” dam and hydro-electric power plant, the world's most ambitious civil works project that entailed the dislocation of several villages.

Its annual report proclaims that CNMEG's vision is that of “a large trans-national group, that is market-orientated, motivated by technology innovation with scientific management and diversified capital structure with engineering contracting and hi-tech products export as its main business.”

Ren is married to an engineering professor

and they have a 15-year-old daughter who, he confided, had begged to be taken to the dinner “so she could practice her English.”

“WE have over \$4 billion in projects around the world,” remarked Ren; “but the project in the Philippines is the most difficult,” this said with a wry smile.

The “project” Ren was referring to is the controversial \$421-million Northern Luzon Railway Project, the subject of a Senate investigation hearing tomorrow. (CNMEG has done projects in the country in the past and is engaged in two other ongoing projects, including the GenSan fish port.) Though most everybody, especially residents and traders along the Manila-Bulacan-Pampanga-La Union corridor, concedes the need for and importance of a revived railway service in this part of the country, the project has run afoul of the old Pinoy bugaboo of politics. In fact, Northrail and its supposedly anomalous contract were among the items in the “amended” impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. Upon the urging of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, with the active backing of Senate President Franklin Drilon, the Senate last week voted to hold hearings on Northrail, forcing Northrail president Jun Cortes to cut short his Beijing trip. (We teased him about bringing home some bananas in case he ran afoul of the senators.)

Among the questions being raised against the Northrail project is the choice of CNMEG as the contractor, with some quarters alleging that “second-hand” equipment would be used, and calling to doubt the company's capability to undertake the work.

The speculation about “second-hand” equipment puzzled Chairman Ren no end. “Where did they get such information?” he wondered. And there were some rumblings of hurt feelings among more junior company officials, who speculated that if the contractor had been an American or Japanese company, nobody would have questioned its capability.

But CNMEG, given its size and track-record, has nothing to prove. And neither, it turns out, the Northrail project.

Hot springs

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



I did not find Mabini's bath in Balungaw but I found the equivalent under the home of Paciano Rizal in Los Baños. After the execution of his brother Jose, Paciano joined the revolution and rose to the rank of general. In retirement, he settled in Los Baños and built a “chalet” designed by Andres Luna de San Pedro, son of Juan Luna. This simple one-bedroom home by the lake, with a view of Talim island, is built atop a hot spring. Paciano had a makeshift pond built under the house where he took daily therapeutic baths. Today, the property is a historical landmark and shrine—Paciano and his spinster sisters Josefa and Trinidad are now buried in the garden—visited during solemn commemorations. That's why I didn't find the guts to shed my formal barong and try out Paciano Rizal's hot spring. That's another item in a long list of things I plan to do before I die.

Kept indoors due to the heavy rains last week, I was thinking of the hot springs in Los Baños when I chanced upon a section on the therapeutic properties of certain springs in the Philippines while browsing the thick Volume 3 of the Report of the Philippine Commission to the President [of the United States], published in Washington in 1901. It may be a century old, but some parts of this report are still useful especially the detailed description of the land and people of the Philippines. I did not realize that hot springs differed because of the water: acidulated, carbonic, ferruginous and bicarbonated waters in Lanot springs, Daet Ca-

marines; alkaline-bicarbonated waters in San Raimundo spring, Calauan, Batangas; sulfurous sulphohydric waters in Mainit spring, Morong; bicarbonated-calcic waters in Candaguit spring, Cebu; sulphated sodic waters in Cabad spring, Lepanto and Quensitog spring, Tiagan;

Chloro-sodic waters in Salvadora spring, Benguet; chlorated sodic-calcic waters in Cotabato spring, Mindanao; chlorated, sodic, bicarbonated and calcic waters in Binobresan spring, Batangas; and finally sulphated, calcic, chlorated and sodic waters in Cauan spring, Tarlac. Many of the springs are in places I have never heard of and are just as obscure to me as the mineral properties of the water.

Filipinos are lazy about distinctions and speak in generic terms: all toothpaste—no matter the brand—is “Colgate”; all refrigerators are “Frigidaire”; all detergent bars are “Perla”; and soda crackers of any kind are “Skyflakes.” Any bottled water is referred to as “mineral” without distinguishing between plain bottled tap water, distilled water, spring water, mineral water and purified water.

Surely, there is some difference here, but nobody seems to mind. Thus, the 1893 analysis of certain springs around the archipelago made me realize why people with certain ailments went to particular springs because each had a corresponding use: for drinking, bathing, inhaling, or all of the above. Each spring could be used year-round or only on certain months. Each spring provided cure or relief from a variety of diseases: from respiratory and intestinal ailments, skin problems, to menstrual disturbances, tuberculosis, syphilis, paralysis, rheumatism, anorexia, gout and even hysteria. I guess I don't have to find a historical reason to enjoy our hot springs. Any hot spring will do.

Comments are welcome aocampo@ateneo.edu

A different kind of People Power

OUR COUNTRY'S PEOPLE HAVE demonstrated unity twice through People Power. Can't we have more?

No, I am not addressing the political concerns of our nation. Although we are now facing great confusions, we must keep in mind that other problems, such as pollution, must not be put in the back burner.

With the rapid urbanization and industrialization of our country, garbage management has become one of the major challenges confronting the government, particularly in Metro Manila. Each sector of society is responsible for the proper

handling of solid wastes. Thus, each of us must know how to manage them.

Solid wastes, when improperly disposed, causes not only pollution; it also poses a major health threat. Of the solid wastes generated by Filipinos, roughly 70 percent are collected. The remaining 30 percent end up where they're not supposed to. One doesn't have to look very far to find them. They're either floating on rivers and canals, blocking drainage systems, or strewn all over on streets. These contribute greatly to flooding especially in urban places.

Studies show that the daily volume of garbage produced is now close to 8,000 tons. Of these, 47 percent could be recycled, while 46 percent is biodegradable and could be processed into compost. This means that only 7 percent should end up at dumps. But sadly, only a small percent is being recycled. If this continues, we'll run out of landfills to dump the waste we produce.

However, the National Solid Wastes Management Commission, guided by the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," is now working to ban non-re-

cyclable packaging materials.

This law will be useless if we do not follow it. We must work hand in hand with the government to safeguard our environment. What we need is more People Power, uniting Filipinos for a great purpose—the elimination of pollution.

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

When solid wastes are used and put in their proper place, they become a valuable resource.

—AIZA HUNG,
aizatopes@yahoo.com



Why did authorities suspend safety laws?

I COMMEND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Construction Corp.'s avowed policy to go after overloaded cargo trucks that pose a danger to the general public.

But I am shocked and outraged by the information that the implementation of the anti-overloading law was subject to a moratorium agreement between the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Land Transportation Office from March to July this year. And thus, the PNCC had to "temporarily suspend the apprehension of overloaded vehicles." No less than Manuel Luis Antonio, senior assistant vice president of PNCC, admitted this much.

As a lawyer, let me stress the fact that a law may be harsh, but it is still a law that should be enforced unless repealed or revised.

What happened to the affected motorists who were victims of accidents caused by overloaded trucks during those five months of the moratorium? For all we know, lives have been carelessly lost because government officials arbitrarily decided to suspend the law which they were supposed to enforce.

My family and I frequently travel along the South Luzon Expressway. What if one of those overloaded trucks had spilled its heavy load on our car? Who would have answered for such an accident? Those overloaded trucks should not have been there in the first place if the law were properly implemented.

I call on the concerned government officials, and Malacañang itself, to make sure that we implement our laws. We ask government officials to wisely spend public funds—mostly generated from taxes we painstakingly pay every year and with every business transaction we make—for the benefit of the citizens.

—RAFAEL J. DELA TORRE,
Suite 250 Comfoods Bldg.,
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor.
Pasong Tamo St., Makati City

Empty 'Jaguar' insinuations

MY CLIENT, ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN, HAS REFERRED to me for appropriate action an item subtitled, "Money-go-round" in the column of Victor C. Agustin (PDI, 7/1/05) wherein he alleged:

"Speaking of Philcomsat, the PCGG nominees in the sequestered company led by Enrique Locsin, brother of Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., have all availed themselves of company-paid executive cars right after assuming office. Locsin himself chose a Jaguar X saloon, no less."

The foregoing column has no basis in fact and is entirely false. Agustin had been told that the vehicle was purchased using Locsin's own money and even before Locsin's appointment in 2003. But instead of rectifying the published statement and, again without any basis, Agustin in his July 20 column insinuated that the money used to purchase the vehicle was obtained by Locsin from improper sources or through questionable means. He said:

"His newspaper may have collapsed from debt and he may have availed himself of a 'consumption' loan from a thrift bank in the recent past, but Today ex-president Enrique 'Henry' Locsin swears by the Masonic code that the P2.525 million Jaguar X saloon he acquired after being named a Malacañang nominee in the sequestered Philcomsat, along with a Mike Arroyo cousin, had been 'paid for with (my) own money.'"

The columns maliciously impute an act causing dishonor to the person of Locsin. My client does not understand why Agustin, given the plain facts and without any evidence to show the contrary, persists in embellishing them in a manner calculated to put Locsin in a bad light.

Agustin again maliciously insisted in another column (PDI, 7/29/05) that:

"Malacañang nominees in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. each received a brand new vehicle for their work."

"But PCGG nominee Enrique Locsin insists that the Jaguar X he acquired after assuming the chairmanship of Philcomsat was paid for by him, all P2.525 million in cash."

"If he was indeed flush with cash, why did Locsin have to borrow P1.922 million in housing loan from a Philcomsat subsidiary right after his 2003 appointment?"

"Even better, a year after, Locsin had paid only the grand sum of P67,857 for the loan."

"At that rate, it would take Locsin over 28 years to fully amortize the loan (outlasting even GMA and most likely the natural life of his brother, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.)."

Philcomsat's assistant corporate secretary has certified that "Philcomsat has not purchased or (been) given a Jaguar X saloon or any Jaguar vehicle to Enrique L. Locsin. Other pertinent documents also belie Agustin's accusations."

—ERIC HENRY JOSEPH R. MALLONGA,
Mallonga & Associates,
Suite 1403, Annapolis Wiltshire
Condominium,
Annapolis Street, San Juan,
Greenhills, Metro Manila

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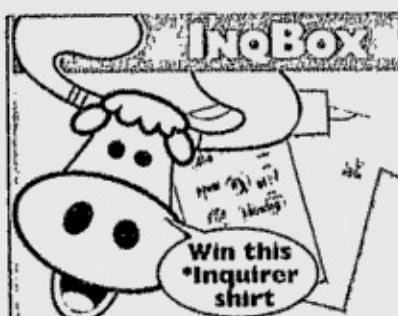
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Question of the Week

Do you agree that the government and the police should drop its "maximum tolerance" policy towards street protesters, in favor of "calibrated preemptive response"?

Senders of the best 20 texts as published in Tuesday's InqBox will each receive an "Inquirer Shirt!"

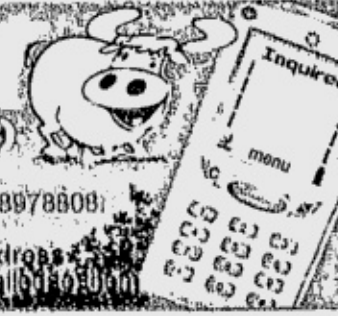
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Provinces seen good market for motorbike trade

BAGUIO CITY—THE motorcycle trade can never thank the oil price crisis enough for the good it is doing to the industry in the provinces.

Market interest for motorcycles in the provinces grew after the world oil price crisis helped make the average car less cost efficient than motorcycles, according to a member of the Fleet Bikers Inc. (FBI), a motorcycle club based here.

The government promised the industry that it would help ease legal obstacles that hindered a government-led campaign to make bicycles and motorcycles the main public transport on community roads, said Isagani Marcellana, manager of the dealership Carmak Motors and a member of the FBI.

FBI was among the national motorcycle and scooter clubs that met with government officials in Malacanan on Sept. 23.

Marcellana said the government would convince the Legazpi City government to review a local policy limiting motorcycle speed to 20 km per hour.

"The Legazpi City rules also forbid motorcycle riders to wear their helmets. *Baligtad, ano?* (Their rules are reversed, right?) Usually, government requires helmets for road safety, but they are reacting to crime suspects who wear helmets and use motorcycles as getaway vehicles," he said.

Marcellana said Palace officials are also



scheduled to visit Baguio next week to try to convince the city council about a 40-year-old ban imposed on bicycles and motorcycles from traveling through Session Road.

Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez proposed the lifting of the ban but a police experiment showed that motorcycles caused too many accidents on Session Road, the city's main street.

Marcellana said the police documented seven motorcycle accidents, but these all involved delivery vehicles used by pizza parlors and fast food chains, he said.

"We plan to challenge (the police's findings)," he said.

"We convinced [Malacanan] that Baguio traffic can accommodate motorcycles because they expel less pollution and use less fuel."

They have already convinced the public, he said, gauging by the brisk sale of motorcycles imported from China and Japan in Baguio, Benguet, the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Pangasinan.

A motorcycle dealership in Baguio sold 40 units in a month after reports discussed the impact of rising oil prices on the economy.

Marcellana said tests made by motorcycle groups in Metro Manila show that motorcycles can run 40 km on a liter of gasoline. Ordinary cars consume a liter per 15 to 19 km.

In Baguio's mountainous terrain, motorcycles consume a liter for every 35 km, according to the studies. "This is like spending P1 a km on gas," Marcellana said.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Most Internet shops in Laoag shut down

LAOAG CITY—ABOUT 80 percent of Internet cafes and shops in this city have stopped operations while a government crackdown on computer shops using unlicensed software is ongoing.

Reports of government-led raids started spreading last week, forcing computer shops located mostly near schools to close shop.

Those using registered Microsoft software, however, enjoyed brisk business because most students who had been regulars in other computer shops were lining up in their stores for their Internet and computer requirements.

A computer shop operator said his regular customers had been egging him to resume operations since he closed shop last week.

"I have to lie low for a while rather than run the risk of being penalized because not all my computer units have licensed software," he said.

He said only one computer unit is running a licensed software while nine others are operating on versions copied from the original software.

"We could not afford to pay the fine or buy a licensed software so we just have to shut down operations for a while. We run on a meager capital. The cost of installing licensed software is way above our income since our customers are mostly students," he said.

Reports here said the local office of the National Bureau of Investigation is part of the raiding team sent by the Optical Media Board. **Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Telecom firms told: Pay taxes to LGUs

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—BOHOL GOV. ERICO AUMENTADO yesterday urged telecommunication giants Globe and Smart to pay real property taxes to the towns where their cell sites were located.

He said several mayors in Bohol complained to him on Monday about the refusal of Globe and Smart to pay real property taxes on the ground that their companies have been paying franchise tax to the national government.

"Instead of paying revolutionary taxes, these companies should pay realty taxes to the local government units," he said.

Aumentado said he would meet with the officials of the telecom giants, which have cell sites in almost all 48 towns in Bohol.

The INQUIRER tried to get a statement from Globe and Smart. A personnel from the Smart public affairs department said the official in charge of the matter was still in Singapore.

The press relations officer of Globe told the INQUIRER that he would call back once he got a statement from the company.

Suspected communist guerrillas torched the Globe cell site in Banat-I Hill, Bool District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol last Sunday.

They, however, spared the cell site of Smart located some 20 to 50 meters away.

Tribunal rules on Bataan poll feud

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) has affirmed the victory of Rep. Albert Garcia as representative of the second district of Bataan over former Gov. Leonardo Roman in the May 10, 2004 elections.

In a decision last Thursday, the HRET, comprised of six members of Congress and three Supreme Court justices led by Justice Artemio Panganiban, upheld Garcia's win by 1,417 votes over Roman, according to the lawmaker's father, Gov. Enrique Garcia, who obtained a copy of the decision on Monday.

"The decision was unanimous," Governor Garcia said. His son could not be reached for comment.

In a statement, Roman expressed disappointment over the tribunal's ruling.

In a phone interview, Roman said the tribunal's decision might have been a punishment for Rep. Antonino Roman's stance for the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Bomb materials found in raid on Sayyaf lair

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A RAID on Pilas Island in Lantawan, Basilan yesterday dawn yielded more than 40 sacks of explosive chemicals, thousands of detonating cords and blasting caps, several gallons of gasoline, triggering devices and assorted firearms, the Philippine Navy said.

Commodore Rufino Lopez, chief of the Naval Forces in Western Mindanao, said Pilas Island is a known stronghold of a Moro National Liberation Front breakaway group led by Bashier Jailani.

The island was also a former training ground of Abu Sayyaf leader Jainal Antel Sali alias Abu Solaiman.

Lopez said the 4 a.m. raid was conducted after an informant confirmed the presence of a warehouse located within the mangrove areas.

But Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Ernesto de Leon Jr. could not say if the explosives will be used for terror acts or illegal fishing.

"Until now we still do not know the (identity of the) owner of the warehouse," he said.

In Cotabato City, a Marine brigade commander insisted that the operations against Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani and his followers, believed to be trapped in Maguindanao, will continue.

"It's not a total termination of the operation. It would only allow residents of Aha, Timar, Pukol and Maradir, all border villages of Talayan and Guindulungan towns, to return to their respective homes," said Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, commanding general of the Philippine Marines 2nd Brigade and chair of the government's Ad-hoc Joint Action Group (AH-JAC).

He said he was told by officials of the 6th Infantry Division that while Janjalani has moved, he and his men were still trapped in Maguindanao.

Earlier, government chief negotiator Silvestre Afafe Jr. said the military operation target in Maguindanao is no longer in the area.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the temporary halt in the military operation would pave the way for displaced families in Talayan, Guindulungan, Datu Odin Sinsuat and South Upi to return to their homes.

"It's difficult. The operation against them has no time frame and the innocent civilians are most affected," Kabalu said.

Kabalu said informers said the group of Janjalani had split into smaller teams to evade soldiers.

Jeffrey Maitem and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau



UNDERWATER

This extravagant display of soft corals was taken at Medina Paradise, a dive site at Medina Point, an islet off Misamis Oriental. It is recognized as one of the top 88 dive sites in the world.

YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Napocor whistle-blower loses job for 'disturbance'

DAGUPAN CITY—AN EMPLOYEE of the National Power Corp. who sued his fellow employees for graft at the Ombudsman lost his job in the company reportedly because he "disturbed the harmonious working relationship within the project."

Last year, Frederick Vergara, a principal engineer of the Napocor's Luzon generation projects (LGP) and assigned at the San Roque multi-purpose power dam project in San Manuel, Pangasi-

nan, sued 11 Napocor officials and employees for allegedly rigging the bidding for a housing project.

Vergara filed the administrative cases at the Ombudsman against his fellow employees, whom he accused of rigging the bidding for construction materials for the Daynet and Bantic resettlement projects in Ampacao and Dulupirip villages in Itogon, Benguet.

He also accused the Napocor officials of releasing payments for hauling construction materials to "fictitious persons."

But the officials denied Vergara's allegations, saying these were "false, unfounded and malicious."

They filed separate countercharges against Vergara and accused him of perjury for executing an oath "containing untruthful statements on material matters" and libel.

Vergara said instead of getting help from Napocor officials to uncover the truth, his job appointment was not renewed on Sept. 19.

He said his superiors treated him "lousy" after he filed the cases. He

said his superiors gave him a "satisfactory" rating, but its basis was not for the job he was assigned to do.

A "satisfactory" rating would mean he was not eligible for reappointment, he said.

In a letter to Vergara, Napocor vice president Danilo Sedilla said the "growing tension and differences created between you (Vergara) and other project personnel as a result of your accusations [against] your co-workers and superiors which ended as a case at hand... have stirred and disturbed the harmonious relationship within the project and caused distrust and lack of respect with one another."

"This is detrimental to the effectiveness of the group in achieving their targets and objectives," Sedilla said.

Most LGP personnel are contractual workers. Of those assigned in San Manuel, however, only Vergara's appointment was not renewed.

Sedilla said the "prevailing situation at the project office no longer permits a healthy atmo-

sphere for you and your co-workers as a team to perform the desired activities in the smooth implementation of the project."

"We cannot allow you to continue working in your present assignment as it may not be beneficial to both the project objectives and your welfare," he added.

Sedilla referred Vergara's papers to the Napocor's human resources group "since this is no longer within my control and responsibility."

Vergara said he received death threats after he filed the charges and one of the accused tried to harm him in August while they were having a drinking spree at their staff house in Binalonan town.

He said he reported the incident to his superiors but his complaint was ignored.

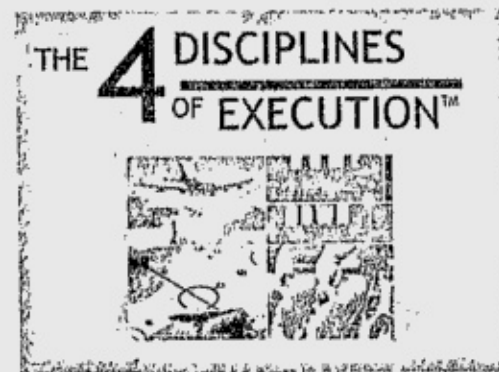
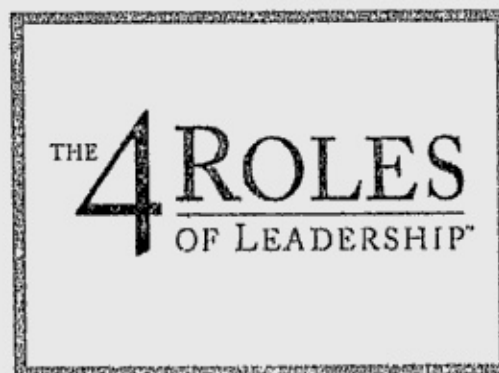
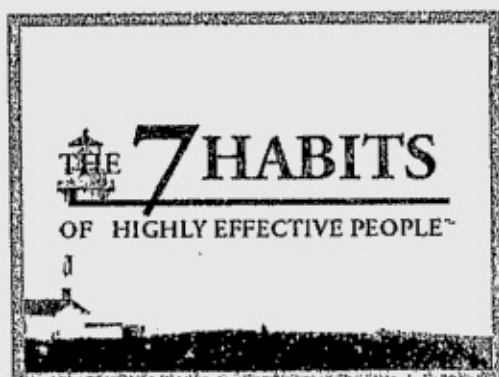
Fearing for his life, Vergara said he asked to be transferred to other Napocor projects, but his request was not acted upon.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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ROBERTO C. ABEJERO

Regional Director, Department of the Interior and Local Government - VII

For initiating the Team Approach on Coordinated Tasks (TACT); and for implementing the region-wide Local Governance Performance Monitoring System (LGPMS), both of which have strengthened local governance.

FORTUNATO T. DELA PEÑA

Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology

For spearheading the formulation of the Science and Technology Plan for 2002-2020 which will guide the activities of the nation's science and technology community; and for pioneering e-governance projects resulting in more responsive public services.

FILOMENA G. DELOS SANTOS

Medical Center Chief, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center

For her pioneering work in the establishment of an integrated and holistic treatment program for abused women and children; and for advancing the modernization of hospital technologies and facilities inspite of financial constraints.

SANI D. MACABALANG

Regional Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - XII

For empowering the fisherfolk in coastal resource management; promoting the conservation, protection and sustainable development of the region's fishery and aquatic resources; and for strengthening the tuna industry.

LEONARDO N. QUITOS, JR.

Regional Director, National Economic and Development Authority - I

For his pioneering work on ensuring a more responsive regional wage-setting system; mainstreaming the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES); and for strengthening the Coastal Resource Management Program (CRMP) for the Ilocos Region.

Special Commendation

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.

Former Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue

For spearheading technology-driven systems reforms which have improved revenue collection efficiency and integrity; and for advocating responsible fiscal administration and development partnerships as pillars of good governance.

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INQUIRER

Northern Luzon

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How Filipinos saved their Olympics

By Vincent Cabreza
Baguio City

CORDILLERA PHOTOGRAPHER TOMMY HAFALLA brought home the gold from the Olympics for the arts held early this month in Malaysia, but only after he wielded hammer and nails to help stage these games.

Hafalla won the world photography prize of the second Delphic Games held Sept. 1 to 7 at Kuching City in Sarawak, Malaysia, for his photographic documentation of "begnas" (rice ritual) in Sagada, Mt. Province.

Ifugao sculptor Gilbert Alber to won a gold in the stone sculpture competition for his "Spirit Cat," while architect Rey Florentino topped the games' architecture conservation category.

It was the Philippines' first gold harvest from this largely underrated Olympics that was sponsored by the International Delphic Council (IDC), a world art movement that aims to redirect the artwork of 40 countries away from their elite commercial markets.

But like the birth pains of fledgling institutions, the games almost failed to proceed this month after the Malaysian government pulled out of its sponsorship chores.

So Hafalla, a few Filipino craftsmen and the artisans of at least 23 participating countries pooled their resources, skills and time to co-produce the Delphic Games themselves.

Hafalla helped mount the artwork of various foreign artists. Baguio-based theater artist Raffy Kapuno, who won honorable mention for the games' storytelling competition, volunteered to host some of the games' evening programs.

Even the judging became the delegates' chores. Each local Delphic council from participating countries selected its sets of judges for the games, according to Divina "Debb" Bautista, the world council's three-term president.

University of the Philippines Baguio art professor Liza Ann Ilagan, Hafalla and Bautista had to pinch-hit as judges for the music, film, and visual arts category to replace member jurists who were forced to withdraw.

No regrets

The artists did not regret helping produce the games. After all, almost all of the Filipinos who joined the Sept. 1 IDC Olympics had a hand in its inception.

Bautista said she helped found the movement in 1994, along with 62 diplomats and cultural workers of Argentina, Austria, China, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Libya, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, the United States, Slovakia and Lithuania.

The movement was the brainchild of J. Christian Kersch, a German finance adviser and

graphic artist.

The IDC website said Kersch "pursued the idea of reviving the Delphic Games of the Modern Era (since 1989) to complement the Olympic Games and to serve as a forum for the culture of the intellect."

Bautista said Kersch recruited her in 1989, but it took them until 1994 to install a world guiding council for the movement.

Feuding members

IDC's first high-profile venture was the first Delphic Games of 2000 in Moscow. The pioneering games sparked a feud that led to the Malaysian crisis two weeks ago, Bautista said.

An IDC board member, who helped produce the games in Moscow, has been feuding legally with the IDC for the rights to produce future Delphic Games.

The IDC official has been blamed for a series of letters warning state leaders away from the IDC-sponsored games, and may have been responsible for Malaysia's withdrawal, Bautista said.

The IDC had taken legal action against the IDC member, but not before Sarawak had canceled most of the games' activities.

"[However], like the Philippine delegation, many of the countries involved were already en route by plane to Malaysia and [200 of the expected 600 world artists] could not turn back. So what were we to do? We decided to buckle down to work and take over," Bautista said.

She added: "We wanted the world's artists to shine, to make their presence felt, and we wanted [the games] to be their showcase, so [the Philippine delegation] agreed to work and rebuild the games."

"Japan and China canceled their delegations, but we had 23 countries flying in. So we talked with them and we agreed to [proceed]. South Africa, which brought in the largest delegation, volunteered to handle administrative and technical work. The United States delegation offered to share the bills."

Diplomacy

But Bautista said the Filipinos ended up with the more difficult chore—diplomacy.

"Artists need to be pampered sometimes, but no [other nationality] was willing to accept this burden, so it became [the Philippines'] job," she said.

Their first job was to placate furious delegates whose hotel bookings were never arranged,

she said, crediting IDC Philippine secretary Ruth Halili for undertaking the dirty work.

Hafalla said he and several foreign artists took time out from framing competing artworks to fashioning the Golden Delphic trophies, which were handed out on Sept. 7.

Bautista said they arrived to discover that the Sarawak team had not prepared the prizes.

"An Indian artist, who wanted a special work room for his exhibit, got our goat. He was

making so many demands. So I prevailed upon [Narda Capuyan] to relocate her indigenous fabric display from her own room to a more public venue. The Indian artist was surprised and delighted. Soon, most of them appreciated the Filipino delegation," Bautista said.

Days later, Capuyan got a standing ovation at a Sarawak fashion show, which displayed the world's ecological fiber creations.



The Civil Service Commission and the 1.4 million state workers salute the 2005 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees

The Civil Service Commission announces this year's outstanding public officials and employees—men and women who have displayed extraordinary commitment and dedication to service and who have upheld the ideals of public service. They will be conferred the awards this afternoon during the *Parangal...Pasasalamat* concert tribute at 2:00 p.m., Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo, Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Dangal ng Bayan Awardees

Julifa Bate-II Balangay

Human Resource Management Officer III
Apayao State College, Apayao
For her uncommon courage and integrity, upholding the rule of law in the face of harassment and threats to her life. She has displayed utmost dedication to her work, valiantly protecting the rights of her co-workers even if it meant questioning and exposing nefarious practices of those in authority. Working in a politicized environment did not prevent her from instituting programs that promote employee welfare and institute discipline.

Rodrigo T. Canuel

Driver I, Department of Agriculture
For epitomizing the ideal in public service, always giving his best in every task he undertakes. He quietly but efficiently performs his assigned duties, dipping even into his own pocket to purchase spare parts just so the vehicle assigned to him would stay in good running condition. His selfless service was clearly manifested when he risked his life in helping prevent the spread of fire that hit a government building adjacent to the Department of Agriculture.

Fortunato T. dela Peña

Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology
For his professionalism and unwavering dedication to service as manifested by the numerous pioneering and pivotal projects he has spearheaded, among them the formulation of the National Science and Technology Plan which sets the direction of science and technology developments in the country, the modernization and automation of government libraries through the Philippine e-Library project and the implementation of the eGovernment Fund which has provided the impetus for the adoption of citizen-centric information and technology projects in several government agencies, all in pursuit of the country's eGovernment Agenda.

William S. Gadayan

Chief of Police, Isabela City Police Station, Basilan
For his steadfast commitment to public service. His unrelenting drive against criminality and continued implementation of security measures has contributed significantly to the peace and order situation obtaining in Isabela City, posting a 90.21% Crime Solution Efficiency. Assigned in a province known as a hotbed of lawless elements, he performed his duties with conviction, unmindful of the threats to his life.

Brent G. Pastor

Clerk I, Department of Education—Looc National High School, Romblon
For his selfless commitment to service, performing tasks way beyond his official duties without any additional remuneration. His willingness and readiness to share his skills and expertise is very evident in the broad range of functions he has assumed, serving as the school's instructor, plumber, carpenter, electrician, computer technician, artist, and messenger with nary a complaint.

Arthur Y. Samson

Driver I, Local Government Unit—San Fernando City, Pangasinana
For his unselfish act of service and genuine concern for others. His constant presence in times when volunteers were needed to help victims of natural and man-made disasters. His display of gallantry in adverse situations is a testament to the ordinary individual's capacity for greatness.

Teresita G. Vidamo (Post-humous)

District Public Attorney, Public Attorney's Office—Las Piñas
For her valor and commitment to service, paying the supreme sacrifice even as she had spent most of her career helping the poor and less fortunate. Her prison ministry work gave hope to victims of injustice; she ensured that indigent litigants were provided free access to courts, judicial and quasi-judicial services and legal assistance. With her death, she has kept alive the tradition of service and self-sacrifice.

Lingkod Bayan Awardees

Lorenzo V. Baluyot

Laboratory Technician II, Institute of Biological Sciences
University of the Philippines Los Baños
For his unwavering commitment to public service. His humble post did not deter him from exploring ways to contribute positively to his agency. His innate love for his work finds proof in the massive repair project he undertook, turning 230 previously unserviceable microscope into functioning units. For this single endeavor, the agency was able to save P230,000 in repair costs and an additional P270,000 which would have been used to purchase laboratory new equipment.

Antonio Miguel L. Dans

Professor II, University of the Philippines
College of Medicine—Philippine General Hospital
For his dedication and commitment as borne by his pioneering work in Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) which helps utilize research data in clinical practice. Through his efforts, EBM has been incorporated in the medical residents' training program in all medical schools nationwide. His researches and publications manifest his commitment to quality medical care anchored on humanity in clinical practice.

Jimmy F. Fadegarao

Barangay Chairman
Barangay San Roque, Coreuera, Romblon
His hard to match term of office as *barangay* chairman attests to his commitment to serving his fellowmen. His 33-year tenure as *barangay* captain was marked by the drafting and sponsorship of ordinances that protected the coastal *barangay* of San Roque and spurred the construction of school buildings.

Teresita T. Mangaya

District Supervisor
DepEd—Alicantara District, Division of Romblon
For her boundless energy and commitment as an educator, untiring and incessant in her efforts of bringing out-of-school youth back to the classroom. The host of projects she initiated underscore her genuine concern for students as she makes sure that there would be no obstacle to learning, not age nor economic status should prevent an individual from attending school. More than the physical improvements she has spearheaded, the 0% drop out rate coupled with the trust earned from students and their parents attest to the good principal's dedication.

Marcelo T. Otinguey

Teacher I, DepEd—Ampusongan National High School, Benguet
For proving that education knows no boundaries, continually exploring ways to broaden his students' horizon by untiringly establishing linkages with government and non-government organizations for the provision of livelihood training and educational materials and expansion of learning opportunities. His dedication is matched only by the unrelenting drive to better his self so as he may ably impart knowledge and information.

Grace R. Princesa

Minister/Consul General
Philippine Mission to the UN and other International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs
For her bravery and dedication. Going beyond the call of duty and despite obvious threats to personal safety, she ensured the successful evacuation of Filipinos in Iraq before the start of hostilities. Her impressive performance in the face of war, a balancing act of protecting her fellowmen and of maintaining bilateral relations, attest to her extra-ordinary skill and commitment.

Violeta B. Salda

Assistant Professor IV, Benguet State University
For her diligence and innovativeness in generating and disseminating technical information on appropriate post-production technologies of vegetables and root crops towards reduced post harvest losses and higher income for farmers. Her persistence in promoting yam production and processing has provided the impetus for the formation of the Luzon Yam Network which now provides funding assistance to small farmer groups.

Baguio City National High School Association of Master Teachers

DepEd—Baguio City National High School
For the group's commitment and concern, going beyond the four walls of the classroom to initiate projects that promote student welfare, enhance parent-teacher relations, and highlight social responsibility.

Grafted Tomato Research and Development Action Team

Central Luzon State University, Science City of Nueva Ecija
For the team's sincere efforts in promoting the welfare of the Filipino farmer through the introduction of the grafted tomato technology that allowed off-season production of the said crop. The development of the technology not only offered to farmers a viable alternative crop which can now be produced on a commercial scale even if off-season; it also ensured the steady supply of tomato produce in the market.

PAGASA Awardees

Reynaldo S. Allpio

Rural Health Physician
Municipal Government of Lubao, Pampanga
For his selfless dedication to service, choosing to serve deprived and indigent communities, organizing various programs and projects that have empowered the underprivileged and increasing awareness of rural folk on the health programs of government. He steered the San Isidro Rural Health Unit into becoming a show window of health services at the grassroots, in the process earning recognition from local and international organizations and creating a sharper profile on the role of health service delivery in effective governance.

Berlito C. Baldevia

Local Government Operations Officer V
Department of Interior & Local Government (DILG)—Valderrama, Antique Station
For his untiring efforts in community organization which has benefited the municipality of Valderrama in Antique. While exposed to all kinds of political suasions, he did not let these get in the way of performing his tasks effectively and efficiently. Thus, he was able to initiate a host of economic programs, including the Integrated Area Community Public Safety Plan and the Bayanihan Savings Replication Project.

Annabelle S. Catimbang

Special Education Teacher I
Department of Education (DepEd)—Inga, City Division Integrated School
For her unwavering commitment and dedication in uplifting the quality of life of disabled children, opening their minds, providing them with the means to hear, see or communicate. While many consider disabled children as handicaps, she looks forward to every opportunity of serving them.



THE OPENING ceremonies of the second Delphic Games in Sarawak, Malaysia presented the diverse cultures of Africa, Asia and Europe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN THE KNOW

A BRAINCHILD OF GERMAN businessman and graphic artist J. Christian B. Kersch, the Delphic Movement is "an international effort to create what would be the equivalent of the Olympics in the field of art."

The movement intends to complete the concept of the Greek Olympics, which strove to perfect body, mind and spirit at its inception.

"The Delphic Games provides the unique focal point in this goal—by pitting each other in artistic and aesthetic fields to complement what the Olympics is to the body," the Delphic movement says in its brochure.

The movement's history traces its roots to the first Olympic Games in Delphi, Greece, in 600 B.C., as well as its reintroduction in 1894 by the International Olympic

Committee, centuries after it was banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius in 392 A.D.

But the International Delphic Council, which oversees the Delphic Games, was officially born in December 1994, upon the support of 31 countries with their own Delphic councils.

The Delphic Games features categories in painting, photography, dance, sculpture and music, but specific competitions are defined by the host nations sponsoring the games.

The first Delphic Games was hosted by Moscow in 2000, after a successful Junior Delphic Games in Tbilisi, Georgia, in 1997. The second Junior Delphic Games was held in Dusseldorf in Germany in 2003. The Third Junior Games will be hosted by South Africa in 2006.

Vincent Cabreza

Acknowledgement:

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Stop talk of takeover, pro-GMA solon urges DOJ

From page A1

and worse, fueling the divisive rhetoric of the political opposition."

Gonzalez admitted to the INQUIRER on Saturday that he had instructed his chief of staff, Benny Nicdao, and State Prosecutor Jaime Umpa to study the possible government takeover of oil and power firms as well as air and shipping lines in the event that the oil crisis worsened.

He made the admission in the course of denying the claim of two opposition leaders that the DOJ had drafted a presidential proclamation that stopped short of martial law.

On Monday, Nicdao said the

planned takeover required the approval of Congress.

Rule of law

Cuenco assured the public that Congress would not support "any takeover of vital industries."

"We all remain committed to the preservation of the rule of law and our vibrant adherence to constitutionally mandated principles and processes," he said.

He also said "private enterprises must be supported at all times, even in the most dismal and horrible times, for [them] to grow and thrive for the greater benefit of the people, not to be threatened with state control and takeover."

Cuenco called for a stop to the

Gonzalez-ordered research activity, saying:

"Is this a law school research hangover [which] lawyers seem to be stuck with, or are they creating some unwise and diabolical diversions?"

"There must always be a strong adherence to democracy and our freedoms. If they do not have an abiding respect for dissent, they should not be engaging in demolition jobs or ... worse turn[ing] their whims on thriving businesses and big industries."

Shut up

Cuenco said government officials should "strictly adhere to their jobs and stick close" to Ms Arroyo's official policy state-

ments, as made through her political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, or Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"Or better," they should stop talking because "they are causing much damage and greater disservice to the presidency," he said.

Cuenco said he found it "quite disturbing" that "some officials" were "clearly heading to committing more grave errors and stumbles."

He said the "best service" that members of the ruling Lakas coalition could do for the administration was to "speed up constitutional, political and economic reforms" before the end of the year.

"Focus on the economy and good governance, period," he said, adding that Ms Arroyo

would "look much better" without these officials "opening their mouths at this time, especially with their dangerous theories and horrific propositions, given the fluidity of the political situation and our hobbling economy."

Not the answer

Addressing fears that emergency rule or even martial law was in the offing, Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado said: "Martial law is not the answer to the country's problems. Its imposition may spawn more problems than solutions."

Honrado, chief of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service, was compelled to issue an official statement on the matter because

of the persistence of the rumors.

"The AFP appeals to our people for sobriety and calm as [it] assures that there is no reason to be alarmed or concerned ..." he said.

He pointed out that the Constitution had enough safeguards against a repeat of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law in 1972.

In a phone interview, Honrado said the conditions required by the Constitution to justify martial law were not prevailing.

"We would like to assure the people that they can sleep soundly at night [without] fear that the [AFP] will impose martial law," he said.

With a report from Dona Z. Pazziubagan

Palace appeals to Senate: Cancel all probes this week

From page A1

have called for Ms Arroyo's resignation—Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavio and Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Manuel Villar, Mar Roxas II and Ralph Recto.

"Malacañang is getting rattled because of the successive investigations by the Senate," was how the source explained the reason for Malacañang's request.

As a result, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago cancelled at the last minute the hearing of the foreign relations committee on the controversial government contract with the US firm Venable LLP on lobbying for US congressional funding for Charter change.

Biazon unstoppable

"No comment," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said when asked if he had

received Malacañang's request.

But Biazon said the hearing of his committee on national defense and security on the "Hello, Garci" wiretap controversy would push through at 10 this morning.

"I have already scheduled it so it will be held," said Biazon, who has also called for Ms Arroyo's resignation in the wake of the wiretap scandal.

Drilon said he had not received the letter or request from Malacañang. Thus, he said, the Senate committee of the whole would proceed with its investigation on Thursday into the allegedly overpriced Northrail project.

Heeding an ally

A source said Santiago complied with Malacañang's request "as an ally" of the President.

But Santiago told reporters her hearing was cancelled because the resource persons were not available "on short notice."

An hour earlier, Santiago's staff said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had confirmed their attendance at the hearing scheduled for this afternoon.

Santiago's committee wanted to investigate the foreign policy aspect of the Venable contract, that is, whether it is an international agreement that needs Senate ratification.

National security

The suspended Senate blue ribbon probe into the deal dwelt, among others, on who had authorized National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to

sign the contract.

The Venable hearing was one of three major investigations scheduled by the Senate for this week.

Biazon's committee on national defense and security will inquire into the so-called "Garci tapes."

The tapes are purportedly recordings of conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about an alleged conspiracy to rig the 2004 presidential election.

Generals summoned

Unlike a previous House of Representatives inquiry into the tapes, which focused on their authenticity, Biazon's committee will deal with the national security implications of the wiretapping.

For the 10 a.m. hearing, Biazon has summoned, among others, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga, AFP Inspector general; Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, deputy chief of staff for intelligence, and Brig. Gen. Marlu Quevedo, chief of the military intelligence service.

"I consider this a breach of national security. We have to raise the question [of] who wiretapped the President and probably for what purpose," Biazon told reporters.

On Thursday, the Senate is scheduled to convene as a committee of the whole to investigate the allegedly overpriced Northrail project funded by the Chinese government.

Asked if he would yield to Malacañang's request should he receive the letter, Drilon said: "I

will wait for the letter."

Jueteng, too

Drilon and other senators earlier said the Senate would pursue its investigation into the Venable deal, the wiretap controversy, "jueteng," Northrail and the raid on the house of opposition document expert Segundo Tabayoyong.

Cleansing the AFP

"We will take up the cudgels for the opposition," Villar said.

Biazon said his committee's inquiry would also look into the "implications" of the mentioning of the names of military generals in the Garcillano tapes.

He said active military officers had raised concerns that these officials might have been used as "instruments" in the commission of electoral fraud. With a report from TJ Burgonio

Gonzales: I love stress, I was born with stress and savor it

From page A1

after his blood pressure shot up during the committee hearing on a deal he had signed with a US lobby firm, Venable LLP.

Gonzales said if there was one person born with stress and savored it, that would be him.

As for the coronary bypass operation, he said, "I have a few more days to think about it. I have an option when to do it and I really have to decide whether I should undergo one or not."

"I love work. I miss work. I just got dizzy in the Senate," said the 58-year-old Gonzales over coffee and crackers. "I feel sick knowing that I'm in the hospital and the truth of the matter is I want to be back in action at the soonest possible time."

The only evidence he was under the custody of the Senate was the three guards from its office of the sergeant-at-arms. They were posted outside Room 4A which has a receiving area and a

kitchen.

The guards said President Macapagal-Arroyo had visited Gonzales twice since he was rushed to the hospital at the end of the committee hearing on Sept. 21.

Some senators, eager to continue with the committee hearing, had proposed sending their own cardiologists to get a second opinion about Gonzales' condition.

"If the doctors of their choice would declare that I am fit and have no problem with my heart at all, I would even jump for joy because I miss work, real work outside the four corners of this room," Gonzales said.

It's in the family

He said his family had a history of heart ailments. His father died of a stroke, his mother of a heart attack. His siblings are all taking medication for heart problems.

Gonzales said he had been ex-

periencing afternoon dizziness in the last three months in the midst of the worst political crisis to engulf the 4-year-old Arroyo presidency. His family had advised him to see a doctor but he had always put it off.

"I have never been under the knife and even my youngest brother called me this morning and advised me not to subject myself to any bypass operation," Gonzales said.

He said the destabilization efforts mounted by the opposition reached their critical phase in the past several months and he felt it was his duty to keep the President abreast of the threats she was facing.

Senate new battleground

Gonzales said the threat to unseat Ms Arroyo was "far more complicated" than he had thought at first.

"A de facto constitutional crisis is in place," Gonzales said. He

said the Senate had now become "a new battleground."

What about the hanging questions about the Venable contract? When does he intend to answer the questions that the members of the Senate committee had raised?

"In due time, I will reveal every detail that led to that contract but to be frank about it, I do not really know who the donors were when the senators asked me about them. It was something I did not lie about," Gonzales said.

Under the \$1-million contract for one year with Venable, the Baltimore-based law firm would seek US funding for the project to amend the Philippine Constitution. Critics said this invited foreign interference in the process. The senators also wanted to know who had provided the funds to pay Venable.

Gonzales' failure to fully explain the contract he signed on July 25 earned him the wrath of

the senators.

Malacañang has insisted that Gonzales had the right not to answer certain questions concerning national security. As a coequal branch of government, it said Gonzales could also invoke executive privilege.

The Senate committee rejected this. Malacañang said it would challenge the Senate panel's insistence that the administration explain the contract in the Supreme Court.

Santiago hearing

Gonzales' lawyer, Jose Ricalfrente, said he had petitioned the Supreme Court to order the Senate to release Gonzales and suspend its hearings.

However, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago announced yesterday that the Senate committee on foreign affairs would conduct its own inquiry into the Venable affair.

The administration ally and

committee chair said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had confirmed they would appear before her panel.

Santiago said she wanted to find out if the Venable contract required the approval of her committee. However, no date has been set for the hearing.

Missing regular food

Ricalfrente said if Gonzales were to reappear before the blue ribbon committee, it would be with the support of Ms Arroyo.

"When he first faced the committee, he was on his own," Ricalfrente said.

For now, food is on Gonzales' mind.

"I miss the regular food that I eat," Gonzales said. He also said he needed "to make a life-altering decision about my health." With reports from Juliet Labog-Javelana and Norman Bordadora

Surveillance tapes in House erased

From page A1

House sergeant-at-arms, said the House kept recordings of its closed-circuit security cameras for only four months.

SOP

Beyond that, it is standard operating procedure to recycle the tapes in keeping with the austerity measures imposed by Malacañang, he said.

"It's not clear. It's worn out. After four months, when there is no complaint or incident, we erase the contents of the tapes," Flores said in Filipino.

Told that erasing the tapes would be illogical because the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration was still in question, he said: "Di puwedeng patagalin. Wala namang incident." (It can be delayed anyway. There were no incidents.)

Flores said the sergeant-at-arms, who was tasked with safeguarding the ballot boxes used in the 2004 elections, had no record of break-ins or forcible entry into the boxes' stockroom in the south wing lobby of the House.

"Perhaps, nothing is missing," he said.

Suspicions

Brillantes suspected that either someone had broken into the storage room, or the missing ballot boxes were not deposited at all in the House, after Congress failed to produce on Monday all

the 200 ballot boxes used in three Mindanao provinces.

Only 53 ballot boxes were turned over to the PET by House Deputy Secretary General Artemio Adasa Jr., custodian of the ballot boxes which contained election returns (ERs), statements of votes and certificates of canvass.

The PET composed of all the Supreme Court justices had ordered the transfer of the ballot boxes from the House in Quezon City to the tribunal's session hall on Taft Avenue in Manila for the revision of votes for the vice presidential race.

Don't ask the Comelec

The recount was sought by Legarda as part of her election protest against De Castro.

"Don't ask us where they are because they're now the responsibility of Congress," Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said in reaction to reports about the missing ballot boxes.

"We gave it to them [for the canvassing] last year. If some ballot boxes are missing, they should have told us long ago. They should do the explaining now, not the Comelec," he said.

Abalos said the agency's own copies of ERs were intact. "We are ready to produce them before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal if it so orders."

He said people should not be too worried about the missing ERs because there were six other copies

deposited with the Comelec's main and regional offices, the dominant majority political party, the minority party and the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections.

"They can be compared with one another to find out if there was any tampering," he said.

Be man enough

Legarda, a former senator, yesterday accused De Castro of being behind the lost ERs in Congress and the forcible opening of ballot boxes in Cebu in order to influence the outcome of the scheduled recount of votes cast during the vice presidential election.

"He should not and cannot feign ignorance all the time. If a crime is being committed right under your nose, how can you say you have nothing to do with it if you are the beneficiary of this crime?" Legarda told the INQUIRER.

She continued: "Noli is a personal friend and a kumpadre but he should be man enough to admit that he's part of the fraud and reveal the truth on how they did it. How can I keep quiet about it just because it concerns somebody I know? I have to shout loud for all to hear. It's a conscience call."

Clear conscience

De Castro slammed Legarda for conditioning the minds of the people that he cheated.

De Castro insisted that his conscience was clear and that Legar-

da had yet to prove her allegations.

"I assure everyone that I never lifted a finger to corrupt and frustrate the true sovereign will of the Filipino people in their choice for the vice presidency," he said.

De Castro said Legarda was just using the media to argue her case.

"Loren cannot intelligently make a conclusion that I will benefit from the alleged unaccounted election returns because the Presidential Electoral Tribunal has yet to rule [on the procedure and] what other election documents can be used as basis for the recount," he said.

De Castro said the PET could adopt a procedure and allow other authentic ER copies to be used to determine the correct election results.

Covert operation

Flores said it was "unfortunate" that the House had no means of ascertaining the claim of Brillantes that administration operatives had tampered with the ballot boxes in January or February while they were in the custody of Congress.

Flores also said the House could not ascertain San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora's allegation that allies of Malacañang led by a member of the "official family" were behind the series of covert operations to tamper with the ballot boxes, the latest of which occurred on Christ-

mas Eve last year.

"I doubt that it could happen," said Flores, who believed that all the boxes deposited by the Comelec during the canvassing of votes last year had not been forcibly opened, much less tampered with.

He said at least seven persons, including two or three members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force, were guarding the storage room 24/7.

The key to the lone door to the storage facility—made of chicken wire and plywood—was held by the House Bills and Index Division.

Flores said one needed a special request and permit from the House secretary general to get the key.

"There was no such request submitted to the secretary general," he said.

Opened once

Adasa and House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles insisted that there had been no pilferage of ballot boxes or of any election paraphernalia entrusted to the House for safekeeping.

Adasa said the storage area had not been opened or disturbed since it was padlocked after the presidential canvassing in June 2004. He said the 200 ERs could have been stuffed inside the 53 ballot boxes.

But Flores mentioned some-

thing worth pursuing by the opposition, although this detail pointed to the possibility of adding, rather than subtracting, ballot boxes.

He recalled that the padlock was unlocked once, purportedly to accommodate ballot boxes coming from areas which had belated or special elections.

He could not recall the exact circumstances, but was sure that it happened long after the canvassing had ended.

Nograles maintained that it was "nearly impossible" for anyone to steal the 200 ballot boxes because these were guarded around the clock and monitored by a 360-degree surveillance camera.

Impeachment hangover

Administration Rep. Eduardo Veloso said the disappearance of the ballot boxes only existed in the minds of the opposition.

Veloso said the opposition should back up its charges with proof.

Administration Rep. Marcelino Libanano, vice chair of the House committee on justice, said the opposition was creating a scenario to muddle the poll protest case of Legarda.

"They are trying to justify her imminent defeat with charges of ballot tampering and switching. Their allegations are an insult to the entire House as an institution," he said.

No pay hike for docs who stay

By Christian V. Esguerra

HEALTH SECRETARY FRANCISCO Duque III yesterday gave dejected doctors and nurses hardly any encouragement to stay in the country and help keep its badly depleted health care system standing.

Duque said the government simply had no money to increase their salary — the chief reason an estimated 51,000 nurses left for abroad in 2000 to 2003 alone and prompted around 3,000 doctors to now take up nursing.

"We don't have adequate funds to afford any salary increase," he told reporters in a press conference.

But even if the government had the money to increase salaries, he admitted it most probably won't gamble on an adjustment considering that rates abroad would still

be much higher and attractive.

A local nurse earns roughly \$180 here while a counterpart in rich countries like the United States rakes in around \$4,000 monthly, he said.

"The issue of competitiveness in salary is difficult to address," he said. "What is competitive? Is \$3,999 competitive? We certainly cannot afford that."

In Duque's mind, raising salary that's still far from the rates abroad would only "compound the problem." That's because the government would be spending more on salary adjustment with no assurance that health professionals would stay.

"You invested more but you didn't solve the problem," he said.

In the meantime, Duque said the public should also take into account that the departure of

health professionals also provide them with better opportunities while helping the economy.

"This could also mean additional (dollar) remittance," he said.

Duque said it was also best to establish a database that would mirror the correct number of health professionals leaving the country for greener pastures abroad.

By his own reckoning, he said the problem with migrating nurses had not reached a "critical point because the replacement rate is enough to fill the vacancies." He gave no figures.

Duque said the "more pressing problem" involves the exodus of doctors, especially specialists, abroad. He said there was particularly a lack of surgeons and anesthesiologists in the countryside.

The government has three

strategies to make doctors available in the provinces.

The Specialist to the Provinces Program involves the deployment of an anesthesiologist and a surgeon in a far-flung barangay. In two years, they are absorbed as a regular employee of a particular local government.

The most recent assignment was at the Carmen District Hospital in Bohol.

The second program, the Doctors to the Barrios Program, consisted of 80 physicians scattered in the countryside.

The third, the Medical Pool Deployment Program, called for the deployment of medical personnel such as Medical Specialists II and Medical Officers III in "district and provincial hospitals as replacements for doctors undergoing training and/or medical education."



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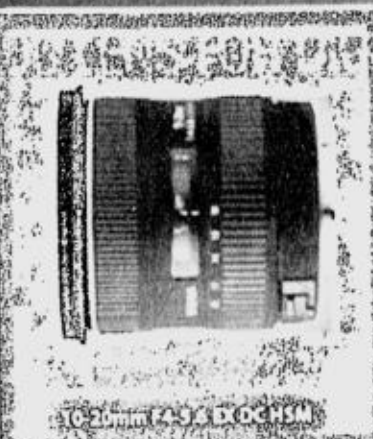
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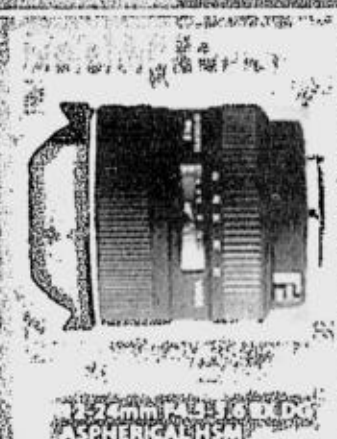
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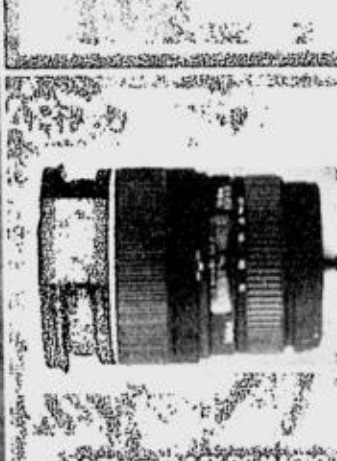
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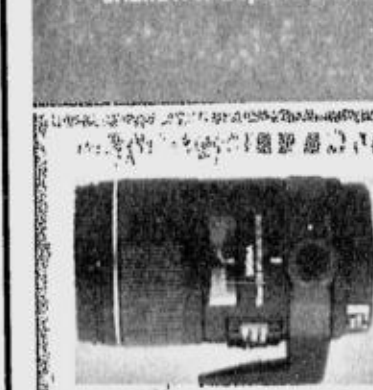
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PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Messages

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines as you hold your 42nd Annual Conference.

Your theme, "Gawâ, Hindi Dadâ! (Delivering Results thru Purposeful Action); speaks well of your vision of uplifting the standards of human resource management in our country. I commend the PMAP for being a reliable partner of government in enhancing the quality of service of our employees, workers and managers.

I enjoin you to continue your collective efforts to deliver results through purposeful action so that we can achieve our ten-point legacy agenda and hasten our economic prosperity and national stability. By working together, we can be at par with other countries in this fast-changing world.

May you have a successful conference.
Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
MANILA

The primacy of action over words has been drilled into our minds for so long that we sometimes use it as an innate part of our system. The keyword here is to 'see'. We perceive that the operationalization of the old adage that action speaks louder than words is very much ingrained in us. But perceptions are far removed from reality. However grand our perceptions may be, they boil down to nothingness when we merely wage our battles in boardrooms and immerse ourselves in endless debates on how things should be.

When we misconstrue talking about the problem as actually doing something about it, we practically stagnate. The matter of bringing organizational problems into the surface is only one step of the way toward solutions. The bigger leap is taking real action.

Amid the endless debates in the country today, I commend the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) for reminding all of us that doing away with too much talk and instead getting down to serious action is imperative if we want results. With the theme, Gawâ Hindi Dadâ: Delivering Results Through Purposeful Action, the 42nd PMAP Conference promises to send practitioners back to their respective offices with such zest for action. With the challenges facing our economy, we definitely need responsive and proactive individuals at our workplaces.

Mabuhay Kayong Lahat!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

It is a great personal honor for me to greet the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Cebu, Inc. on the occasion of its 42nd Annual Conference on September 28-30, 2005.

Cebu is proud to host this national gathering of Human Resource Management practitioners and managers from the different sectors of society, aimed to generate a mindset of urgency and collective action from among the officers and members of PMAP.

With your inspiring theme, "GAWÂ, HINDI DADÂ!", I am confident that the series of programs and activities lined up for this event will truly contribute to the achievement of your noble aspirations.

I wish you success and a memorable stay in Cebu.

Gwendolyn R. Garcia
Governor

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

Congratulations to the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) on its 42nd National Conference on September 28-30, 2005.

Once again, Cebu is privileged to be chosen as the venue for this significant conference. Allow me to extend the warm welcome of the City Mayor to all the delegates.

This year's theme "Gawâ, Hindi Dadâ (Delivering Results thru Purposeful Action)" is a very timely call for unity and action. To create value and deliver results, HR professionals must begin not by focusing on the activities or work of HR but by products, new mindsets, new competencies, and new ways of thinking about business which puts more pressure on the organization's most important resource: human resource. I certainly share your vision on delivering results from the HR management practice in the country.

I hope we can continue to work together in providing better programs for the betterment of the community.

Once again, congratulations and I wish you another productive conference this year.

TOMAS M. USENERA
Mayor, Cebu City

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the 2005 PMAP Board of Directors, it is with great honor and pride that I extend our warmest welcome to all the delegates, keynote and resource speakers, and distinguished guests to the 42nd Annual Conference of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

This year's Conference theme "Gawâ, Hindi Dadâ (Delivering Results thru Purposeful Action)" is a relevant and meaningful topic at a time when we need quick answers to address our country's problems. It is a subject that may be appreciated by different kinds of organizations in all sectors of society which desire to improve their performance level. While experimentation and flexibility are important to companies, the most critical factor is determined, persistent, and relentless action to pursue and achieve the set purpose against all odds. Purposeful action is not the superficial attempt to achieve something. It is action-taking to produce certain results with undivided resolve.

As in previous annual conferences where innovations and improvements are injected in program designs and contents, this year's conference is unique. With new and distinct topics, coupled with a powerhouse of speakers, we introduce more audio visuals, stage props, combining music and learning, and creating human synergy by stimulating our own individual human system.

As HR practitioners, our highest call for duty to society is to unify a MIND that thinks of the greater common good, a HEART that feels for the good of others, nurture a healthy and agile BODY to do our work and obligations to our families, companies and communities. And at the end of each day, we nurture a SOUL that is solidly-grounded on principles.

On this note, I send my sincere appreciation and admiration to the men and women who have unselfishly shared so much of their time, effort and resources for the success of this Conference - to the AC Directorate, the AC Host PMAP Cebu Chapter and the other 18 Chapters, the PMAP Professional Staff and members, the Production team, and to the many sponsor-entities that have supported us from the planning to the staging of this Annual Conference. MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

LINA A. ASENETA, FPM
PMAP President

There is a call for united action - the call is for the community of HR professionals to take the bold step to start being more involved in the "doing" and less of the "talking".

This conference is the perfect time to gather together as one family to sound off the need to move; a great opportunity to build alliances so that even in diversity, we can be united in the spirit of taking active part in creating a culture of action, results orientation and a persistent, determined and relentless pursuit of what will make us a better individuals, organization, and community.

This conference is a living proof of a commitment to make things happen - the AC Directorate, the PMAP Professional Staff, our sponsors, and the selfless members who give their best - it is "GAWÂ" all the way.

As I thank you for joining this annual professional gathering, I ask that you actively anticipate so that the output of the conference will be the input to the bigger task when we are back to our workplace, to our home...

Let's do it!!!

ROBERT T. POBLETE, FPM
PMAP Vice President and
42nd AC Chair

Dear 42nd PMAP Annual Conference Participants:
Information for the mind. Release for the body. And meditation for the soul. A synergy of mind, heart, body and soul. This is what this year's PMAP Annual Conference embodies.

The 42nd PMAP Annual Conference is uniquely improved in both form and substance. The catchy theme stated in the vernacular serves to inspire everyone to not more than speak, to deliver results through purposeful action more than engage in verbosity. The plenary sessions with an "all purpose ambience" (garden tables with park benches, waterfalls and birds in a cage); the concurrent sessions where participants go barefoot, sit on the floor with bar stools, coffee tables and the like, what more can anyone ask for?

In short, there is a lot in store. PMAP has always been at the forefront in introducing innovative ideas in the conference arena. Certainly, PMAP has gone a long way from its humble beginnings. The conferences it organizes are now comparable with the best international conferences organized in both the U.S. and Asia Pacific Regions.

As in previous PMAP annual conferences, there will always be something to take home with. All participants are of course enjoined to participate actively in both the intellectually-stimulating sessions as well as fun-filled social activities. They may do so by asking questions, seeking clarifications from the speakers, networking with other delegates, and joining in the singing and dancing activities. Any conference can be successful only up to the extent that participants find true meaning in the learnings that they obtain.

I can only wish all of you a most worthwhile, value-adding and rewarding experience of a lifetime brought to you by the 42nd PMAP Annual Conference.

Along the good Lord Bless us all.
Mabuhay ang PMAP!

JIMMY M. ISTODRO, FPM
Treasurer, PMAP
Deputy Chairperson, 42nd Annual Conference

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of PMAP-Cebu, let me welcome you to the 42nd Annual Conference and to Cebu.

The present economic and political scenario underlines this year's conference theme aptly. Indeed, more than anything else, it is imperative that we Deliver Results Thru Purposeful Action on time...

Let me take this opportunity to thank and pay tribute to the organizers, sponsors and donors; talented men and women, as well as you, the participants, who made this conference possible. We and PMAP are truly blessed to have them and all of you!

I would also like to congratulate each and every one in this conference on the blessing of being here.

Mabuhay ang PMAP!

REMEDIOS MARIE K. MANDALA
PMAP Cebu
Chapter President

SYNOPSIS

GAWÂ, HINDI DADÂ!

Delivering Results Thru Purposeful Action

THE COUNTRY IS HUNGRY FOR ACTIONS, NOT WORDS.

There is a disturbing research conclusion that states: Despite all their activity, only a small fraction of managers actually get something done that really matters or moves their organizations forward in a meaningful way. In other words, a great majority of managers are engaged in mindless activity and unproductive talk, rather than purposeful action.

One of the main barriers to getting things done is the tendency to treat talking about something as equivalent to actually doing something about it. In some organizations, there seem to be an unspoken, but powerful belief that once a decision has been made to do something, no additional work was needed to make sure it was implemented. Likewise, there are many cases happening in organizations where holding meetings to discuss problems and their solutions and preparing written reports are mistaken for actually accomplishing something. While rhetoric is frequently an essential first step towards taking action, just talking about what to do isn't enough. Nor is planning for the future enough to produce that future. Something has to get done and someone has to do it.

While experimentation and flexibility are important to companies, the most critical challenge for companies is exactly the opposite: determined, persistent, and relentless action-taking to achieve a purpose, against all odds. Driven by deep personal commitment to the goal that cuts out distractions and overcomes difficulties, purposeful action is not a mere flirtation with ideas. It is not the superficial attempt to achieve something. It is taking action to produce certain results, with undivided resolve.

"GAWÂ, HINDI DADÂ!"

This is the PMAP Annual Conference message for 2005. This is a relevant subject at a time when we need quick answers, and concerted action to address our country's woes. It is a theme that will be appreciated by different types of organizations in all sectors of society who desire to improve the level of their performance. The conference shall be akin to a roadmap, where participants shall be armed with mindset of urgency and collective action, yet made clearly aware of the pitfalls, dead-ends and detours along the way. It is a journey, taking off the initial plans and heading towards the final results that will be surveyed from the individual, organizational, and the national points of view.



"GAWÂ, HINDI DADÂ!"

(Delivering Results Thru Purposeful Action)

September 28-30, 2005

Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City

The 42nd PMAP Annual Conference

September 28-30, 2005, Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City

DAILY SCHEDULE

DAY 1
Sept. 28, 2005, WEDNESDAY
Officers of the Day:
Nicasio L. Lim, FPM
Arthur Luis P. Florentin, FPM

3:00-5:00 pm
Opening Ceremonies
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
Doxology
National Anthem
PMAP Hymn

Turnover to PMAP of Symbolic
Key: 1001 Cebu
Remedios Marie K. Mandala
President, PMAP Cebu Chapter
Hon. Tomas R. Quinsaga
Mayor, Cebu City
Lina A. Aseneta, FPM
President, PMAP

Declaration of the Opening of the
Conference
Robert T. Poblete, FPM
Vice President/Conference
Chair, PMAP
Assisted by:
Lina A. Aseneta, FPM
President, PMAP
PMAP Board of Directors:
Luz Co-Laguitao, FPM, Jimmy M.
Istodro, FPM, Marcelo B.
Fernandez, Bernadette M.
Cunanan

Terresita E. Dela Cruz, FPM, Ma.
Lourdes L. Fernando, FPM, Arthur
Luis P. Florentin, FPM,
Nicasio L. Lim, FPM, Ma.
Angelica B. Lieander, FPM,
Julie M. Miteria, Danilo P.
Pancho, FPM, Vilma C. Valera,
Terresita A. Villanueva, FPM,
Oscar L. Contreras, Jr., FPM,
Barbie L. Alenzon, FPM

Keynote Presentation:
"GAWÂ, HINDI DADÂ!"
(Delivering Results Thru
Purposeful Action)
Joyce D. Lina, Jr., President,
Manila Hotel
Mina D. Aguirre, Country Manager,
Chikpan A.A.
Jon Santos, Artist
Session Facilitator/Director
Grace D. Rallo-Bakunawa
5:30-7:00 pm
Exhibit Ribbon-Cutting/Cocktails
Classified
Venue: Atlantic Hall
7:00-9:30 pm
Fellowship Night/Talent Showcases
Sponsored by: Patron Corp.
Venue: Atlantic Hall

DAY 2
September 29, 2005, THURSDAY
Officers of the Day:
Ma. Angelica B. Lieander
Terresita A. Villanueva, FPM

Julie M. Miteria
8:00-9:25 pm
Plenary Session 1
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
"Sugod Mga Kapalit!"
Changing Mindset
"Are You Brave Enough to do
the Right Thing?" Shattering the
"Play Safe" Mindset
Hon. Maria Graciela Cleo M.
Pedraza, Governor, Isabela
Antonio P. Melato, Executive
Director, Gawad Kalinga

Session Facilitator
Rosita Ceres Legaspi - Agnes
Bo'Lo Associates Phils., Inc.
Awarding of Plaque
Luz Co-Laguitao, FPM
Antonio N. Ferrer, Jr.

9:25-10:15 am
Plenary Session 2
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
"Angkin ang Tagumpay" Seize
the Future
Napoleone L. Nazareno, President
& CEO, Smart Communications,
Inc. and PLDT

Session Facilitator
Remedios Marie K. Mandala, FPM
Fujitsu Computer Products
Corp. of the Phils.

Awarding of Plaque
Bernadette M. Cunanan
Jose B. Nolas, III
9:15-10:45 am
Networking/Coffee Break
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
10:45-11:30 am
Plenary Session 3
"Do It Now and Do It Well: The
Execution Challenge"
Antonio B. Javier, Jr.
Managing Director, Microsoft
Phils., Inc.

Session Facilitator
Marquez O. Ogo, FPM
Cyprus Semiconductor
Phils., Inc.
Awarding of Plaque
Terresita A. Villanueva, FPM
Polina N. Bart

11:30-12:15 pm
Plenary Session 4
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
"Win the Marathon, Not the
Sprint!" Sustaining a Culture of
Success
Pepelito M. De Claro, President
and General Manager, Wyeth
Phippines, Inc.

Session Facilitator
Hamon B. Segismundo, Wyeth
Phippines, Inc.

Awarding of Plaque
Nicasio L. Lim, FPM
Francisco R. Moreno

12:15-2:30 pm
Fellowship Lunch
Sponsored by: ACLT Computing
Venue: Atlantic Hall

2:30-3:45 pm
Concurrent Sessions 1
1. Managing at the Speed of Light
Marile B. Zamora, Country
Manager, Convergys Phils.
Service Corp.
Venue: Caribbean Room, Lower
Level

Session Facilitator
Pangloss P. Pura
United Coconut Planters Life
Assurance Corp.

Awarding of Plaque
Alice Manahan

2. Work Performance
Management:
Driving Viability, Accountability,
and the Future
Lars Dalgaard, CEO, Success
Factors, Inc.
Venue: Coral Room, Ground
Level

Session Facilitator
Lilith Portugal, PMAP Cebu
Chapter
Awarding of Plaque
Jojo Vito

3. Walk the Talk
Andrew Ericson L. Santos, Vice-
President for Nutrition, Wyeth
Phils., Inc.
Venue: Caspian Room,
Ground Level

Session Facilitator
Vicente J. Kilayko, DBM
Philippines

Peter C. Buenaseda
Phelps Electronics and Lighting,
Inc.

Awarding of Plaque
Romeo Bernal

3:45-4:15 pm
Networking/Coffee Break
Venue: Concurrent Session
Rooms

4:15-5:30 pm
Concurrent Sessions 2
1. Raising the HR Bar:
Achieving the HP Standard
Edgardo R. Soriano, FPM, SVP,
Organization, HR & Comm.,
Lafarge Cement Services
Phils., Inc.
Venue: Caribbean Room,
Lower Level

Session Facilitator
Rene M. Gener, FPM
Individual Member

Awarding of Plaque
Atty. Ramello P. Payos, FPM

2. Getting the Most Bang for
Your Buck: Maximizing People &
Organizational Performance
Cameron Francis,
Managing Director,
Harcourt Future
Leaders-GENESYS Assessment
Venue: Coral Room, Ground
Level

Session Facilitator
Ma. Jennifer I. Gutierrez
O2 HR Solutions

Awarding of Plaque
Rosario S. Ventura, FPM

Kathy McRae, Head of Practice,
Technology Solutions Australia
Venue: Baltic & Balearic Rooms,
Lower Level

Session Facilitator
Enrique V. Abadesco, Jr., FPM
Individual Member

Awarding of Plaque
Solita V. Delantar, FPM

5:30 pm
PMAP Awards Night
Sponsored by:
Globe Telecom, Inc.
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom

DAY 3
September 30, 2005, FRIDAY
Officers of the Day:
Globe Telecom, Inc.
Terresita E. Dela Cruz, FPM

8:00-9:00 am
Plenary Session 5
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
"Halo Pamilya!"
Showcasing the Greatness of the
Philippines
Lina-Matti A. Holopainen,
President, Philippine
Electricity Market Corporation
Steve D. Santel, CEO, Bo's
Coffee Club

Session Facilitator
Lillian Echavez
PMAP Cebu Chapter

Awarding of Plaque
Terresita E. Dela Cruz, FPM
Remedios Marie K. Mandala, FPM
Atty. Reynaldo A. Capangangan

9:00-9:45 am
The Power of the Will
Dr. Josefine Blyu
Officer in Charge, Office of the
Director, FHS - Western
Visayas
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom

Session Facilitator
Remedios Marie K. Mandala, FPM
Chino Banking Corporation

Awarding of Plaque
Danilo P. Pancho, FPM
Lourdes E. Abesillas
Miguel O. Navarro

9:45-10:15 am
Networking/Coffee Break
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom

10:15-11:00 am
Plenary Session 6
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom
"Mantala Ka... There is a
Philippine Dream!"
Panelists: Joyce A. Bernadette,
President, Chuanstrust Commercial
Bank Corp.
Atty. Eliseo P. Dizon, Jr.,
President & CEO, World Class
Financial

Session Facilitator
Oscar L. Contreras, Jr., FPM
Individual Member

Awarding of Plaque
Luz Co-Laguitao, FPM
Individual Member

Awarding of Plaque
Luz Co-Laguitao, FPM
Individual Member

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Mr. Sergio L. Narang, Jr.,
President, Mexicana Healthcare
Corporation
Integrator: Pinky Webb,
Newscenter, ABC Channel
Session Facilitator
Ma. Cristina M. Manroca
Pelon Corporation

Awarding of Plaque
Ma. Angelica B. Lieander
Lourdes M. V. Echavarria
Edith B. Geniza, Ph.D.

11:00-12:00 pm
Greenhouse: Our Destiny
Panelists: Hon. Emmanuel
Bonoan, Undersecretary,
Department of Finance
Ma. Lina A. Resas, Head-News and
Current Affairs Division, ABS-
CBN Broadcasting
Sunny Coloma, FPM, Dean, Asian
Institute of Management
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom

Session Facilitator
Remedios Marie K. Mandala, FPM
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.

Awarding of Plaque
Ma. Lourdes L. Fernando, FPM
Arthur Luis P. Florentin, FPM
Jose C. Valera

12:30-2:30 pm
Fellowship Lunch
Sponsored by:
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Venue: Atlantic Hall
2:30-5:00 pm
Call to Action
1. Four-Act Play
Regina Paz Lopez,
Managing Director, ABS-CBN
Foundation
Dr. Alfonso Lagaya,
Medical Director
Living Life Well Medical SPA and
Acupuncture Clinic
Gerardo A. Piana, FPM, IPMA-CP,
President, PMAP
Shirley Rana,
Student, Colegio San Agustin
Eunice Bakunawa,
Student, Colegio San Agustin
Joy Arile, Artist
Venue: Pacific Grand Ballroom

Session Facilitator
Grace D. Rallo-Bakunawa
5:30 pm
Fellowship Night
Sponsored by: Microsoft
Philippines & San Miguel
Corporation
Venue: Atlantic Hall
Conference Song composed by
Ernesto D. Cecilia, FPM

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3 cops nabbed for Cainta rob

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TAYTAY, RIZAL—THEY ARE SUPPOSED to protect people from criminals, instead, three Eastern Police District policemen have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a foiled robbery in Cainta two weeks ago, where a year-old girl was killed.

Lawmen are looking for a fourth suspect—also a policeman.

PO1 Candido Vallejo, PO1 Roel Palana and PO1 Roger Villarente were presented to media yesterday by their fellow lawmen.

PO2 Joel Tapeç, who was previously arrested for his alleged involvement in another robbery, remains at large after he posted bail for the earlier offense.

Police officials suspect that the four are members of a group behind the rash of highway robberies in Pasig City, Marikina City and parts of Rizal in the last nine months. At least three people were killed in those incidents.

Ballistic examinations on bullet slugs recovered from at least five robbery sites showed that these were all fired from one gun.

Police are still looking for that .45-caliber pistol that is expected to tie all the cases together.

The suspects, who used to be members of the Pasig City Police Station dubbed as the "Pasig Elite," are assigned at the Eastern Police District Mobile Force.

"Malakas ang loob nila dahil kabisado nila ang lugar. Kapag nasita sila, puwede



POLICE Officer I Candido Vallejo is presented to media at Rizal police headquarters after his arrest for robbery and the killing of a year-old girl. ERIK ARAZAS

silang magpakilalang pulis," said Cainta police chief Supt. Gilbert Cruz.

Cruz said that although the suspects had been positively identified by at least four witnesses, they continued to deny the allegations against them.

"Hindi ko alam ang mga ibinibintang nila sa akin. Lalabas din ang katotohanan," Vallejo, wearing a yellow detainee shirt, told reporters.

For unknown reasons, he hid his arms and hands inside his shirt as he was presented to media by members of

the Rizal police provincial office.

"Wala kaming kasalanan," Villarente also said.

The four suspects were identified by witnesses from file photos as those who robbed businessman Eric Guevarra, 41, and his family on Sept. 14, Cruz said.

The Guevarras were on their way home to Marikina City after withdrawing money from a bank in Cainta when four men on board motorcycles blocked their path and opened fire.

A bullet hit year-old Erica Charlene in the head.

The robbers failed to get the money, police said.

Armed with a warrant, the Cainta Police arrested Vallejo inside a room he was renting in Pasig City at about 6 a.m. yesterday.

The Eastern Police District used the same warrant in taking Palana and Villarente into their custody.

District director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela said Palana and Villarente were arrested Monday night inside the district annex office, where they were reporting for duty.

"These policemen are part of the group called 'Demolition Team' composed of about a dozen members operating in Metro Manila and Rizal," Rizal Provincial Police director Senior Supt. Freddie Panen also said.

The same policemen are said to be behind the foiled robbery in Marikina City on Aug. 15 where drugstore owner Edward Young, 24 and his driver Glenn Magbanua, 47, were killed.

Tapeç himself was previously arrested for his alleged involvement in robbing candy factory vice president Fernando Sy in Pasig City on Aug. 26. Sy and security guard Jason Abaog were wounded during the attack.

The names of Palana, Villarente and Vallejo also surfaced during the investigation but the Pasig City Police filed robbery with frustrated homicide charges only against Tapeç.

Tapeç managed to post bail and is now in hiding, Valenzuela said.

Quezon City blast kills 2; 4 others hurt

A POWERFUL BLAST KILLED TWO MEN AND hurt four others before dawn yesterday at Sitio Pajo, Barangay Baesa, Quezon City after a man allegedly tossed a hand grenade at the victims while they were sleeping.

Police believe it was intended for a girl who had earlier accused the suspect, Froland Oliva, of rape. Oliva had introduced himself as a member of the Philippine Marines. Maximo Alog and Nestor Aranes were mutilated beyond recognition when the grenade went off.

Neighbors said Oliva, who is now at large, had been looking for his accuser earlier, although no one saw him toss the grenade, according to Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division chief P/Supt. Procopio Lipana. DJ Yap

Police arrest 5 suspects for kidnap-slay of Coke exec

By Luige A. del Puerto

TWO YEARS AFTER THE body of Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy was found in a grassy Parañaque City lot, five suspects were arrested by authorities last week, police have reported.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the police Intelligence Group, identified those arrested as Hector Cornista, alleged leader of the kidnap gang; Dominador Cornista, alias Om-

ing; Renato Superable, alias Lupin; Alvin Cornista Labra and Rogelio Mendoza.

Rafanan said the police believe it was Superable who shot Sy three times in the legs, wounds that caused her to bleed to death after it appeared that she had tried to fight off her abductors. Hector was the first to fall in the string of arrest operations that spanned Metro Manila and Southern Luzon.

The police arrested him and Labra in Barangay Karuhatan,

Valenzuela City. Superable was arrested in Antipolo City, Dominador Cornista in Tanauan, Batangas, and Mendoza in Quezon province. Police said the Cornista gang was behind 18 kidnap for ransom cases, mostly in the two regions.

Rafanan said the group was suspected in the abduction and killing of Arturo Picones in July 2005, even after his family had paid ransom. Two informants led the police to the Cornista gang's hideouts, Rafanan said.

The two stood to collect a total of P1.5 million in reward money. The five policemen who effected the arrests were Supt. Rosaura Acio, Intelligence Group head in Southern Tagalog; Chief Insp. Simnar Gran, Senior Insp. Ronnie Visco, SP04 Eufrocino Maunahan and P01 Frederick Tupaz.

They were presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a news conference at the Presidential Security Group premises in Malacañang Park where

they were awarded the "Medalya ng Kadakilaan."

Sy's mother Maria also thanked the President, Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes, Philippine National Police Director Gen. Arturo Lomibao and police agents for the capture of the alleged kidnapers. The victim, abducted in Quezon City on Nov. 17, 2003, was a summa cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines. With Christine O. Avendaño

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Honest lawmen cited

THE LIST of policemen being cited for honesty just got longer after five more lawmen were commended in the Northern Police District. Two of them, PO2 Jaime Gonzales and PO3 Sullivan De Guzman, returned substantial amounts of money to their owners. Meanwhile, three Caloocan City policemen were recommended for a citation after helping a tourist from Mauritius get the right amount in exchange for her dollars from a foreign exchange shop. SPO1 Alexander M. Vergara, PO2 Romulo F. Sarabia and PO2 Joel Caysip accompanied the tourist to the foreign exchange shop after



its employees gave the Mauritian P1,000 only for dollars worth P42,000. They also assured the foreigner that the transaction was an honest mistake.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Councilor sees graft

MUNTINLUPA City Councilor Rene Carl Cayetano has cast doubt on the legitimacy of Mayor Jaime Fresnedi's Infrastructure projects. He said yesterday that he was considering the filing of graft charges against the mayor. Cayetano said the mayor did not seek the consent of the City Council before Fresnedi entered into an agreement with contractors to build nine covered courts, a school and a material recovery facility building in several barangays. He said an ordinance required all such contracts to have the approval of the Council. Thus, Cayetano added, the contracts entered into by Fresnedi were invalid. Jocelyn R. Uy

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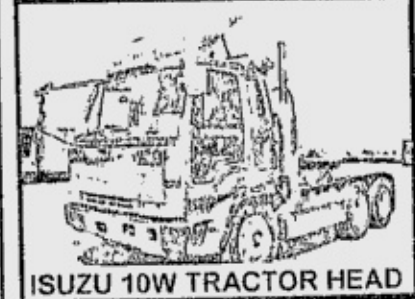
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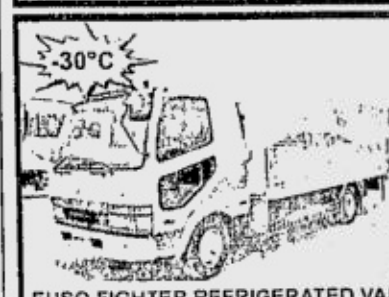
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PBA foresees a brighter season

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

AFTER GETTING BUFFETED BY VARIOUS CONTROVERSIES last year, the Philippine Basketball Association, now on its 31st season, is looking forward to regaining its luster and bringing back the fans.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala yesterday stressed the league is looking forward to the Fiesta Cup with a lot of enthusiasm.

"We're optimistic about the coming year," said Eala during the media launch at the Manila Diamond Hotel in Manila yesterday. "Last season was very challenging for us. We had the best and worst of times, so to speak."

The season-opener Fiesta Cup

kicks off on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum with Purefoods clashing with Red Bull in the lone game.

Also present during the launch was new PBA chair Ely Capacio of Purefoods and members of the board.

On top of the league's agenda is to lure back the fans, whose number has significantly thinned as far as live attendance is con-

cerned, mostly attributed to the Fil-sham and drug-testing controversies plus the economic crunch that hit the country hard.

When Capacio was named chair this year, he said that bringing back the league's glory days in live attendance was the immediate goal of his term.

This will also mark the first time in 20 years that the league will open shot without the Shell franchise, which took a leave of absence at the end of the 2004-2005 season.

"We'll surely miss Shell but we have to move on," Eala said. "Having nine teams consolidates the league and ensures high-quality games," Eala said.

Eala noted that the league is

undergoing a healing process to regain its lofty standing.

"I'm very positive about the future," said Eala.

Much of Eala's confidence can be attributed to the entry of colorful rookies bannered by Anthony Washington and Mac Cardona of Talk N' Text, Sta. Lucia's Alex Cabagnot, Red Bull's Leo Najorda and Paolo Bugia and Coca-Cola's Neil Raneses, who are expected to steal some of the spotlight away from the imports and the veterans.

Spicing up the conference is an out-of-the-country match between Red Bull and defending champion San Miguel in Taipei on Dec. 4.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB—Yankees vs Orioles; 7 a.m. (7-30 p.m.); ES—PN—New York faces Baltimore as the regular season winds down.

EXTREME SPORTS: US X-Games; 4:30 p.m.; ABC 5—Check out the best of extreme sports.

FOOTBALL: UEFA Champions League; Ajax vs Arsenal; 8 p.m. (7). Liverpool vs Chelsea; tomorrow at 2 a.m.; STAR Sports—European Heavyweights collide in Match Week 2.

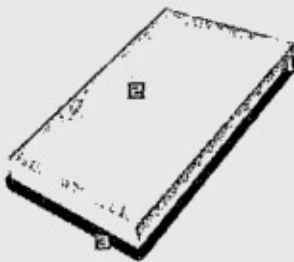
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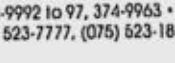
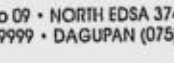
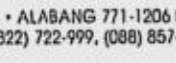
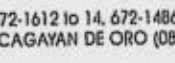
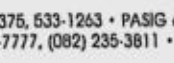
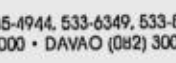
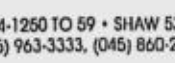
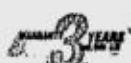
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Ozamiz levels with Iligan; All-Star games set

OZAMIZ CITY—VETERAN CHRISTIAN Nicdao bounced back from a scoreless performance in game one to propel Ozamiz past Iligan, 88-74, and force a rubber match in their best-of-three semifinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship

Monday at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Over at the Mandaue Sports Center, Mantawi's Sparkling Nights leaned on PBL veteran Ardy Larong to deal Valencia Golden Harvest a masterful 100-85 beating and also extend their best-of-

three quarterfinal series to the limit.

Meanwhile, all is set for the 2005 NBC (National Basketball Conference) All-Star games in the cities of Iligan and Valencia tomorrow and Thursday.

"Basketball fans here are excited," said Iligan Mayor Lawrence Cruz.

"On Sept. 29, we're celebrating our fiesta in honor of St. Michael. We thank NBC for making us host of one of two All-Star games here."

Spicing up the event are side contests such as the slam dunk and three-point shoot-out.

Alex still chasing dreams

By Francis Ochoa

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A 14-hour drive from Chesapeake, Virginia, to his hometown in Toronto, Alex Pagulayan stopped at a roadside to pick up a phone call.

"I feel so happy right now," the newly crowned US Open champion told the INQUIRER in an overseas phone call. "One of my dreams has been accomplished."

Reports coming from the Chesapeake Conference Center, where the Filipino-Canadian humbled the legendary Jose "Amang" Parica to win the \$40,000 top prize, quoted Pagulayan as saying he had been chasing just two dreams in his life.

One was to win the World Championships. The second was the US Open. Now, just 27 years old, he has both trophies and it seems he can't stop dreaming.

"Hindi pa rin (not quite)," he said. "I actually have three goals in life. Gusto ko yung tumangkad ng two inches pa (I still

want to grow two inches taller)."

The last goal is actually part of the Pagulayan package. Already weary from travel and his head heavy with the longing for sleep, the 5-foot-3 cue artist still has time for a little self-deprecation.

It is a charm akin to the toothless smile and the head-scratching humility of Efren "Bata" Reyes, the player Pagulayan is oft-compared with. Of course, Pagulayan is quick to dismiss the heir-apparent tag.

"Hanggang ugali lang puwedeng pantayanin (I can only match his attitude)," Pagulayan said. "When it comes to skill, there's nobody who can follow in the footsteps of 'The Magician.'"

"He was born with that extra skill, it's like Michael Jordan in basketball."

Pagulayan says he won't try to become the next Reyes. He admits that after winning the US Open, he might take things easy for a while—like taking the time out to accept a celebrity poker invitation in England on Oct. 13. But it doesn't mean

he has run out of motivation.

"There are many challenges and there are many good players coming out whom you want to beat," he said.

But he's not in a rush to beat them all. Life's a leisurely road trip. And if one can answer a phone call at 4 a.m. in the middle of a long drive, taking a break from the sport should be easy.

Besides, there's a long schedule ahead of him: Apart from tournaments here in the country, in Japan and Taiwan, he's going to represent the country in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

"Kay Ma'am President Gloria (Macapagal-Arroyo) na ako nagsabi na maglalaro ako (I already told President Arroyo I would play for the country)," said the Philippine-Canadian citizen. "And I promise to try my very best to win for my countrymen."

"At least, that goal, I can still do something about," he added. "Yung two inches, hopeless na."



PAGULAYAN: I want to grow 2 inches taller.

UM rips STI, boosts title-retention drive

By Marc Anthony Reyes

EASY DOES IT.

The University of Manila Hawks hardly ruffled their feather in disposing STI, 75-56, last night, hovering just a win away from their fifth straight National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's basketball title.

UM used its vast experience and championship savvy to put STI to its rightful place early on, leading the game throughout and cruising to victory.

They can wrap it up with a win in Game 2 on Saturday in a venue yet to be announced.

UM main man Ryan Regalado quickly went down to business, unloading most of his 25 points in the first quarter as the Hawks surged to a 27-7 lead.

"We don't want to take chances anymore," said UM coach Ato Tolentino. "We will have to make use of whatever power we have on the court. Definitely we will take the title on Saturday."

Regalado also had five assists for UM, which kept on pounding despite the token opposition put up by STI, which made the finals via a sensational twin-victory over twice-to-beat semifinalist St. Clare.

But STI coach Vic Ycasiano remained unfazed and vowed to make adjustments in Game 2 to avert yet another league milestone for UM, on whose dominance the league is seemingly hinged.

It was the Hawks' 90th victory in 91 games in this four-year-old league, breaking their historic winning run of 86-straight games with a loss to fourth-place St. Clare this season.

SPORTSWATCH

LGBA derby finals today

THE SHOWDOWN of prominent Luzon gamefowl breeders resumes today via the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby" second round eliminations at the Araneta Coliseum. Sponsors of the three-day event (Sept. 26, 28 and Oct. 3) are Lakpue Drug Inc., Robichem, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Thunderbird Enerstone and Vitarich Panabong. Today's round will start at 10 a.m. featuring 129 fights. So far, 10 participants remained unbeaten with three wins each from Monday's elimination round: Bobby del Rosario, Benben de Guzman, Rep. Larry Wacnang, Dong Chung, Boy Gamilla, Boyet Plaza, Jun Santos, Gene Garcia, Larilla Sevilla and Jun Bautista.

'Labanan' stagfest Friday

PASAY City Cockpit's biggest stagfest every year, the "Labanan Sa Pasay 5-Stag Derby," is set on Friday with topnotch cockers and breeders seeing action. Supporting the event is Sagupaan Complex 3000. Derby host and pit manager Eric dela Rosa said the derby will start at 3 p.m. with more than 80 fights lined up. Submission of entries is tomorrow from 2-9 p.m. Early participants include Patrick Antonio, Dicky Lim, Boy de Roca, RQP San Juan Group, Pol Estrellado, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Gerry Ramos and Ramon Mancenares.

Motorsports seminars up

THE 2005 Caltex Delo Sport Truck Custom and Bike Show will hold a series of motorsport-related seminars for show visitors starting today until Oct. 2 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Competition driver Pepen Marave will hold a seminar on the "Merits of Karting to Start Your Racing Career" on Oct. 1, from 4 to 5 p.m.; Monty Pedrosa of Manila Off-Roaders will discuss the "Basics of 4x4 Off-Road Racing" on Sept. 29-30 from 4-5 p.m.; Lito Dulce of Race Motorsports will talk about "The Secrets of Slalom Racing" on Sept. 29 from 5-6 p.m. and on Oct. 1 from 3-4 p.m. The organizing TradeShow International Inc. (TSI) will also feature motorsports video shows every day.

SMS-Girlstown bets top Little Olympics

SISTERS OF MARY-GIRLSTOWN BAGGED the overall high school title of the Milo Little Olympics and will claim its championship trophy and sports equipment worth P40,000 during the awards ceremonies at 3 p.m. today at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

The Cavite-based SMS-Girlstown tallied 10 golds, 9 silvers and 9 bronzes to win its 15th straight crown and squeaked past Rizal High School and SMS-Boystown which recorded similar 8-8-11 outputs to finish tied for second place.

PSC commissioner lawyer Ambrosio de Luna and Milo sports executive Pat Goc-Ong are the guests of honor in the awarding ceremonies organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop.

San Diego Elementary School claimed its first-ever overall title in the grade school division with a 17-10-5 card followed by St. Jude Catholic School (7-2-1) and De La Salle Lipa (5-8-0).

Campomanes tapped for 2 world tourneys

INTERNATIONAL CHESS FEDERATION (FIDE) honorary president Florencio Campomanes has been official of two important international competitions—the world chess championship in San Luis, Argentina, from Sept. 29 to Oct. 16 and the world team championship in Beer-Sheva, Israel, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 11—this year.

Campomanes, who served as Fide president for 13 years, was tapped by Fide president Kirsan Ilyumshinov as observer in the Argentine event. He was named chair of the Appeals Committee in the Beer-Sheva team competition. Campomanes is acknowledged as responsible for the growth and development of chess worldwide.

La Salle paces Inter-school golf

LA SALLE GOT OFF FLYING IN BOYS COLLEGE play and inched ahead of rival Ateneo in the high school division in yesterday's rain-marred start of the fifth Samsung Inter-schoolastics golf championship at the executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Charles Hong fired 55 points, Marlo Capinanes tallied 52 and Oliver Gan scored 49 as La Salle 1 aggregated 156 to pull away by 22 points over Ateneo 1. Ateneo 2 was further back at 117

and La Salle 2 was fourth at 115.

La Salle kicked off its bid for a twin victory with a three-point lead in the boys high school competition of the tourney also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Marco Olives got 55 points, Miko Yee (51) and Carlos Fonacier (50) for La Salle-Greenhills' 156.

Farewell dinner

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

MOST OF those who were present at the farewell dinner hosted by Shell at the Manila Golf Club last Friday found it rather eerie that a huge, brown butterfly suddenly

materialized out of nowhere just when ex-PBA governor Bobby Kanapi was paying a short tribute to the ballclub's dearly departed.

"The butterfly just wafted around for some minutes and it's really creepy that it should appear at the point when I was talking about Ric Lara, Bobby Villarosa and John Moran who are all deceased ballclub officials. They say spirits of the dead sometimes take the form of butterflies," Bobby K said.

In this case, Bobby and his Shell staff, composed mainly of women, believed that the butterfly who crashed the party was the spirit of Villarosa. It couldn't have been Lara, they said, because he had died a long time ago. It couldn't have been Moran either, because the butterfly was brown and not white, the group reasoned.

Too bad I missed this reunion of past and present Shell officials, coaches and players spanning 20 years. The party was over at half past nine when I arrived and only Bobby K and his staff were left at the venue settling the bill. The most I got from the event was a short chat with coach Leo Austria, PT Jimbo Saret and former cagers Ed Cordero and Aldo Perez.

But I did have a few laughs with Bobby K, his charming assistant Vicky Araneta (who will be jobless as a result of the Shell disbandment, according to Bobby) and the rest of the Shell staff later at the UCC Café where we all proceeded for coffee and dinner (for me).

His cellphone had been inaccessible since he arrived from Australia, but Purefoods governor Rene Pardo assured me that I would catch PFC team manager Alvin Patrimonio at the PBA press conference Tuesday noon at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

Alvin arrived late, so I immediately pinned him down lest he get away, even if I had to postpone lunch. Never mind if I was getting hypoglycemic. My mission was to confirm if it was true that the Patrimonio family was migrating to Spain.

The four-time MVP admitted that it was an option, although at this stage, there are still no definite plans, no definite destination.

Right now wife Cindi and their three kids—Angelo 16, Christine 13, and Clarisse 11, my *inaanak* and the most promising of the three, are in New York to participate in a tournament and train under Filipino Dante Sta. Cruz, who is "the hitting partner of Serena Williams *lang naman*." The Patrimonios will also enroll in a tennis school where Sharapova got her training.

"Who knows, *baka gumaling sila* if we give them all the support we can afford," said Alvin.

It is his children's dream to give honor to the country and play with the pros, he revealed.

From New York, the Patrimonios will fly to Spain for further honing. Meantime, Alvin stays in Manila to raise money for the very expensive development program. In the tennis school alone, Alvin said the fee is \$1,000 a week per child.

"Dito na lang muna ako dahil kailangan magtrabaho. Bibisitahin ko na lang sila wherever they are every PBA break."

The warning came from San Miguel Corporation's Robert Non yesterday during the PBA presscon: "Expect a totally brand-new Romel Adducul in this season," he said.

Under the tutelage of national coach Chot Reyes, Robert said Romel has tremendously improved in practically all departments of the game. Including free throw shooting, his weakest spot.

Believe it or not, Romel has improved his shooting from the foul line by 70 percent, Robert said.

HOOPVINE: As far as Mang Pards knows, there is no truth to reports that PFC cager James Yap and fiancée Kris Aquino have gotten married secretly. "The wedding is scheduled next year pa," said Mang Pards. "Actually I could have asked Kris personally yesterday. She was the PBA's special guest... Ateneo Godfather Manny V. Pangilinan missed the Ateneo-DLSU game last Sunday. He was in New York."



SPENCER Shim, president of Samsung Electronics Phils. Inc., hits the ceremonial drive.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 204 CITY OF MUNTINLUPA

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR
INVOLUNTARY INSOLVENCY
SPS. ROSARIO A. BALADJAY
SATURNINO BALADJAY, ET. AL., Debtors

- VERSUS -

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 03-026

ANNE MARIE CABALLERO, ET. AL., Petitioners,
ROMEO G. MANGALINO, ET. AL., Interveners.

AMENDED ORDER

For failure of the debtors to file their Manifestation within ten (10) days as per Order of the Court dated April 21, 2005, the Court has to give due consideration to the evidence presented by the Petitioners. Petitioners prayed, among others, that after notice and hearing, to declare as Insolvent, solidary DEBTORS Rosario A. Baladjay, Saturnino Baladjay, MULTITEL, Multitel International Holdings Incorporated (MIHI) and MIHI's subsidiaries namely MULTITEL Communications Corp., MULTITEL Consultancy Group, Inc., RAB Realty, Inc., and Richville Travels and Tours, Inc., and Polished Arrow Holdings, Inc., and that their assets, including those in the name of their conduits, be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Law, and to order the dissolution of Multitel, MIHI and MIHI's subsidiaries so that their assets may be distributed among all their creditors in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Law.

To support Petitioners claim, aside from the voluminous documentary evidence they presented Carlos Pardo Rubi for Intervenor Edmundo Rubi, Joseph Galiano Dela Cruz, Melchor Bnones Orais, Rafael Asuncion Manalo, Romeo Mangalino y Galdia, Elvira Reyes Oliva, Nestor Boyd Tinio, Joseph Monel Belmonte and Sergio Theodoro Santos, for the other creditors, all of whom testified that they were all investors of the aforementioned debtors who failed to return, after demand, their money invested amounting to Millions of Pesos excluding the US Dollars when they became due.

The Joint Receivers, Lella Ira and Dr. Rafael Manalo submitted Reports to the effect that they have validated claims of the creditors amounting to Four Billion Two Hundred Seventy-Eight Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty-One Pesos and Thirty-Nine Centavos in the Philippine Peso (Php. 4,278,999,241.39) Inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, and Forty Million Five Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen and Fifty-Seven Dollars (US\$ 40,544,714.57), Inclusive of Edmundo Rubi's claim, as against One Billion Six Hundred Ninety-Seven Million Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos and Ninety-Three Centavos in Philippine Peso (Php. 1,697,229,456.93) and in US Dollars Five Million Five Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Seven and Eighty-Six (US\$ 5,532,887.86) of the Debtors' properties and assets.

After a careful examination of the records presented, it is clear that the Debtors defaulted in the payment of their current obligation and have failed after demand for a period way beyond what is provided for by law to pay all monies invested with them. Hence, the Court is convinced that the Debtors have committed acts of insolvency under Section 20 of the Insolvency Law (Act No. 1956), which provides that:

"Section 20. xxx The following shall be considered acts of insolvency, and the petition for insolvency shall set forth one or more of such acts: xxx (1) that being a merchant or tradesman he has generally defaulted in the payment of his current obligations for a period of thirty days, (12) that for a period of thirty days he has failed after demand, to pay any moneys deposited with him or received by him in a fiduciary capacity, xxx."

WHEREFORE, the Court hereby adjudges that the following debtors are and were at the time of the filing of the Petition, an INSOLVENT, and they were guilty of the acts and things charged in the Petition:

- Rosario A. Baladjay
- Saturnino Baladjay
- Multitel International Holdings Incorporated
- Multitel Telecom Investors Corporation
- Multitel Communications Corporation
- Multitel Consultancy Group Incorporated
- RAB Realty Incorporated
- Richville Travel and Tours Incorporated
- Polished Arrows Holdings Incorporated

Pursuant to Section 24 of the Insolvency Law, the aforementioned persons and companies are hereby directed within three (3) days from receipt of this Order, to submit to this Court duly verified copies of the following:

- A Schedule of Debts and Liabilities containing a full and true statement of all the debts and liabilities with a list of those to whom to the best of their knowledge and beliefs, said debts or liabilities are due, the place or residence of the creditors and the sum due each, the nature of indebtedness or liability and whether founded on written security, obligation, contract or otherwise, the true cause and consideration thereof, the time and place when and where such indebtedness or liability accrued, a declaration of any existing pledge, lien mortgage, judgment, or other security for the payment of the debt or liability, and an outline of the facts giving rise or which might give rise to a cause of action against it, and

- An Inventory of Assets containing, besides the receivable credits, an accurate description of all the Respondent's real and personal properties, and effects, if any, together with a statement of the value of each item of said properties, effects and their location, and a statement of encumbrances thereon. All Respondent's properties exempt by law from execution should also be set out in said Inventory with a statement of its valuation, location, and the encumbrances thereon, if any. The Inventory should contain an outline of the facts giving rise, or which might give rise, to a right of action in Respondent's favor.

Accordingly, with the herein declaration of Insolvency, all civil proceedings against said DEBTORS before any court, tribunal, office, board, body, Commission or shell are hereby deemed suspended. Consequently, all pending incidents for preliminary injunctions, writ of attachments, writs of execution, foreclosures and like are hereby rendered moot and academic.

The Receiver, Dr. Rafael A. Manalo, is directed to take possession of, and safely keep until the election of an assignee, all the deeds, vouchers book of accounts, papers, notes, bills and securities of the aforementioned persons and companies and all their personal properties, estate and effects, except those exempt from execution. In view thereof, all persons and entities owing money to the DEBTORS are hereby forbidden to make payment for its account or to deliver or transfer any property to DEBTORS or to any person for DEBTORS, except to the duly designated assignees.

For purposes of choosing the assignees of the estate of the aforementioned persons and companies, a meeting of all CREDITORS is set on December 14, 2005 at around 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the NBP Sunken Garden, New Bilibid Prison Reservation, Muntinlupa City. All other creditors who have not been validated by the Joint Receivers and have not filed their claims directly in Court at least Thirty (30) Days before the date set herein, are disqualified to vote for the assignees.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Petitioners-In-Intervention Romeo G. Mangalino, et. al., and Edmundo Rubi, thru their Counsel, Atty. Mindamar Somera and Kathleen L. Ancanan, and Atty. Preston F. Villasis and Siena Therese Sontillano, respectively, are hereby deputized to cause this publication not later than September 30, 2005, and upon the filing of the Schedule above required to be submitted, to send copies of this Order by personal delivery and/or registered mail to all creditors listed in the said Schedule, and submit proofs thereof within five days from completion.

SO ORDERED

City of Muntinlupa, July 22, 2005.

JUANITA T. GUERRERO

SHAKEY'S INVITATIONAL

RP volleybelles get early peek at tough SEAG foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL squad gets an early tune-up against its toughest rivals for the Southeast Asian Games championship when the Shakey's National Invitational Volleyball Championship unfolds on Oct. 7 to 9.

The three-day tournament drew regional powerhouse Thailand and Indonesia. Completing the cast is a team from Myanmar.

The Philippines will be led by Michelle Carolino of La Salle, Roxanne Pimentel of UST and Cherry Rose Macatangay of San Sebastian, who are

standouts of the Shakey's V-League, a volleyball tournament that serves as a breeding ground for the sport's talents.

"We've [been facing] them (Thais) since last year, they have the height advantage but in the skills department, we are at par with them," said Macatangay, the 29-year-old Army sergeant who has the most SEAG experience with one silver (1995) and two bronze medals (2001 and 2003) in her collection.

RP coach Ramil de Jesus, however, admitted that the RP spikers are facing an uphill battle in the biennial event especially since the Thais have enough foreign exposure and would thus go into the competitions with high morale.

But the Philippine Volleyball Federation (PVF), which organizes the Shakey's V-League, stressed that it's the exposure the team will get that matters most in the tournament.

"This is a good exposure and training for our national team," said PVF treasurer Ricky Palou during yesterday's PSA Forum.

Also in the forum were tournament director Tony Boy Liao and event coordinator Sports Vision Management Group chief Jun Bernardino.

The Philippines used to rule SEAG volleyball in the '80s but it remained winless after taking the championship in the 1993 edition held in Singapore.

Track squad suffers big blow

THE PHILIPPINE TRACK AND field team to the Southeast Asian Games suffered a minor setback after its top bet in the 20-kilometer, Melinda Manahan, broke her right leg while training at the PhilSports.

The 32-year-old Manahan reportedly slipped and fell badly during a 200-meter speed work, according to national coach Jojo Posadas. She will need at least six months to recuperate and will definitely be out of the SEAG just two

months away.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok expressed disappointment for his injured athlete and credited her for her hard work.

"She has been working very hard for the SEA Games and it's a pity she had that accident," he said.

Nevertheless, Go said the accident—which happened last Wednesday, won't affect the country's quest for the overall track and field title in the SEAG. *Marc Anthony Reyes*




TRAINING HARD: World No. 1 tennis player Roger Federer of Switzerland returns the ball during a practice session in Bangkok. Federer will join the Thailand Open which runs until Oct. 2. *AFP*

Phinma tilt: Local netters grab spotlight

FILIPINO SECOND STRINGERS HAD A FIELD day in the first round of the boys' singles event of the Phinma-International Tennis Federation junior championships second leg yesterday at the Ynares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig City.

In the absence of junior Davis Cuppers who are competing in Spain, three Filipinos, led by third seed Nico Riego de Dios, stormed the next round hoping to stand their ground against foreign competitors.

De Dios defeated wild-card compatriot Jose Lorenzo Oplencia, 6-0, 6-2, to set up a duel against unseeded Korean Choi Woo Whuk, who claimed a Filipino victim in Russel Arcilla Jr., 6-2, 6-4.

Michael Basco, the seventh seed, slipped past Kenneth Low of Singapore, 6-3, 6-0, even as wild-card Francis Casey Alcantara downed compatriot Raymund Padigos, 6-4, 6-3, to likewise advance.

Basco, however, gets a tough assignment today against Taiwanese Lee Yi Pei, who fashioned out an impressive 6-2, 6-7 (4), 5-0 (retired) win over South Korea's Kim Sun Hong.

Alcantara will next take on another Taiwanese, Lin Kuan Heng, a 6-7 (1), 6-4, 6-1 victor over No. 8 Hugh McDonald of Australia.

In the other end of the draw, Australian top seed William McNamee rolled over Japan's Ryoken Matsui, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, to avenge his semis loss to Pablo Olivarez II during the first leg.

Olivarez, Ralph Barte and Kyle Dandan are in Spain for the David Cup tie.

Also making the next round were fourth seed Toshiya Suzuki of Japan, fifth seed Indonesian Lenz Theodor and sixth seed Taiwanese Chang Yu Chi.

Marc Anthony Reyes

PRACING TIPS

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Race 1—1. Guest House
2. Lord of the Ring
3. Dulce My Love 4.
Mika's Pride

Race 2—1. Ocean Cook-
le 2. Security Star

3. Highly Connected 4. Silver Place

Race 3—1. Red Phoenix 2. Sgt. Marangal 3. King of Arabia 4. Color of the Wind

Race 4—1. Formidable Ella 2. Successful Dream 3. Hazmagie 4. Royal Lantana 5. Crowning Glory

Race 5—1. Princess Inn 2. Nureyev Heiress 3. Do It David 4. Tervalec

Race 6—1. Mary Jane Bomb 2. Paslrit 3. Vallant Queen 4. Better Beth

Race 7—1. Victory Ranger 2. Irish Step 3. Nalda's Star 4. Canta Libre

Race 8—1. Princess Sarah 2. Blitzkrieg 3. En Carta 4. Desert Breeze 5. Awesome Power 6. Long Hitter

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Two 'indie' documentary and animation filmmakers make a big splash with an A-rated film



YUL Servo in "Ilusyon." To creatively solve budget problems, the filmmakers used cut-out ani

'Ilusyon' realized

Pelicula Pelikula

4th Spanish Film Festival

September 29, 2005 Thursday

Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1 & 2



- 3:00 pm **Dias Contados**
Cinema 2
- 4:30 pm **La Flaqueza del bolchevique**
Cinema 1
- 5:30 pm **El bola**
Cinema 2
- 7:00 pm **Noviembre**
Cinema 1
- 8:00 pm **Nadie hablará de nosotras cuando hayamos muertos**
Cinema 2
- 9:30 pm **Barrio**
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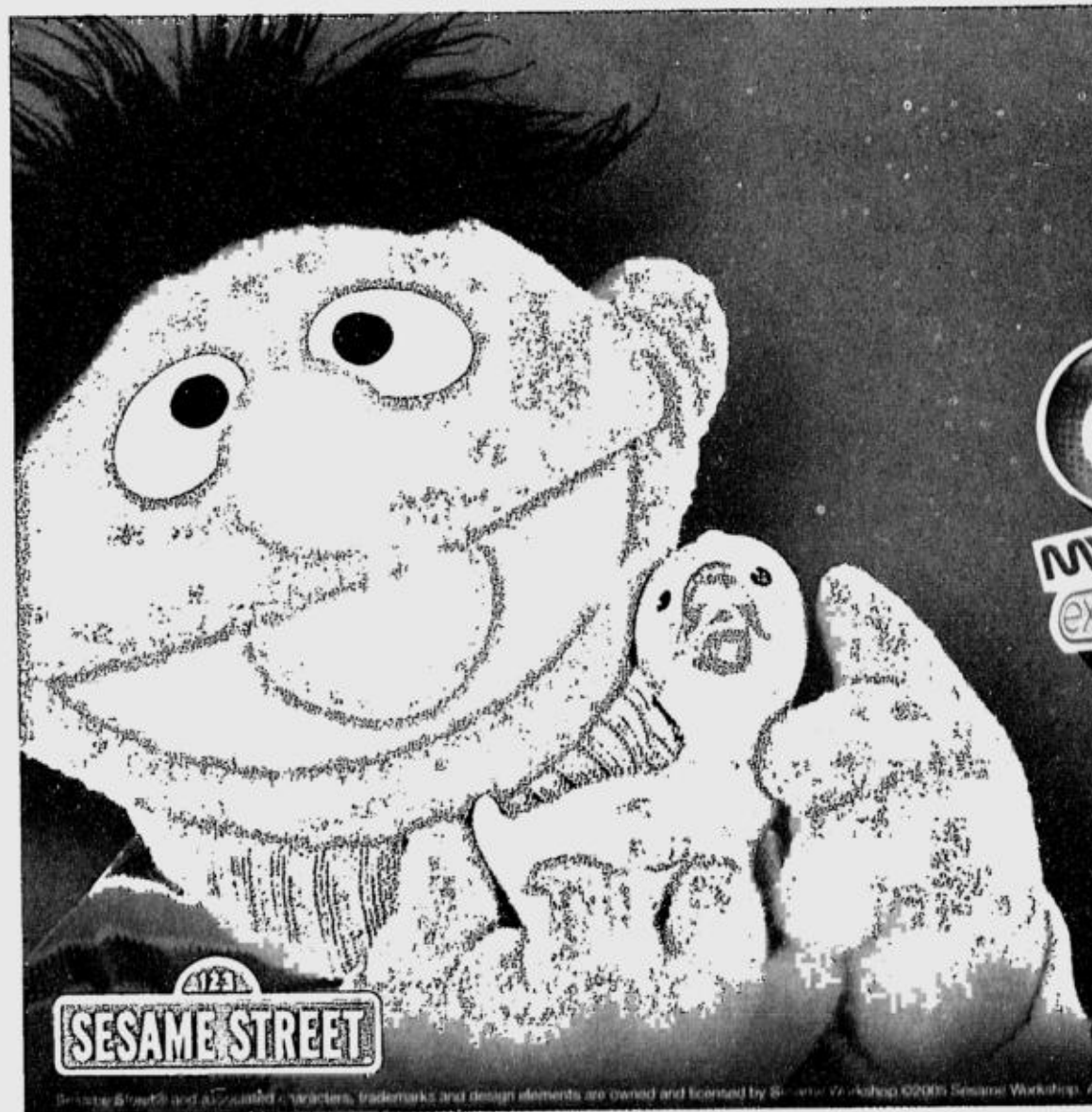
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2 **PERFECT CATCH**
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/08:45
08:25LFS/09:00L/10:40END
MEGAMALL
TRANSPORTER 2
10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/05:40/07:50
09:30LFS/10:00L/12:35END

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12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30L/11:30END
2 **A SOUND OF THUNDER**
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:48/05:42/07:36
09:21LFS/09:30L/11:15END
3 **CINDERELLA MAN**
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:25LFS/09:30L/11:55END

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1 **TRANSPORTER 2**
2 **PERFECT MAN**
3 **DARK WATER**
4 **DUBAI**
5 **PERFECT CATCH**
6 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
7 **ONE MISSED CALL 2**
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3 **DUBAI**
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3 **THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER**
4 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
5 **THE DESCENT**
6 **PERFECT MAN**
7 **TRANSPORTER 2**
8 **LOVESTRUCK**
9 **DUBAI**
10 **ONE MISSED CALL**
11 **A SOUND OF THUNDER**
12 **CONSTANT GARDENER**

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2 **LOVESTRUCK**
3 **DUBAI**
4 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
5 **BLADE OF THE ROSE**
6 **THE DESCENT**
7 **PERFECT MAN**
8 **ONE MISSED CALL 2**
9 **DARK WATER**
10 **BROTHERS GRIMM**

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1 **TRANSPORTER 2**
2 **DUBAI**
3 **DUBAI**
4 **LAND OF THE DEAD**

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2 **PERFECT MAN**
3 **ONE MISSED CALL 2**
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5 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
6 **BLADE OF THE ROSE**
7 **DUBAI**
8 **THE DESCENT**

SM CITY MANILA
1 **PERFECT MAN**
2 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
3 **LOVESTRUCK**
4 **THE DESCENT**
5 **PERFECT CATCH**
6 **TRANSPORTER 2**
7 **DUBAI**
8 **DARK WATER**
9 **ONE MISSED CALL 2**
10 **BROTHERS GRIMM**
11 **BLADE OF THE ROSE**
12 **DUBAI**

SM SAN LAZARO
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2 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
3 **PERFECT CATCH**
4 **DARK WATER**
5 **LOVESTRUCK**
6 **DUBAI**

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2 **DARK WATER**
3 **THE CAVE**
4 **A SOUND OF THUNDER**
5 **DUBAI**
6 **DUBAI**

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2 **CINDERELLA MAN**
3 **LONGEST YARD**
4 **THE CAVE**

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2 **DUBAI**
3 **TRANSPORTER 2**
4 **THE DESCENT**
5 **BLADE OF THE ROSE**
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7 **LOVESTRUCK**
8 **PERFECT CATCH**

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4 **DARK WATER**

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2 **DARK WATER**
3 **DUBAI**
4 **LAND OF THE DEAD**

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2 **A SOUND OF THUNDER**
3 **CINDERELLA MAN**
4 **LONGEST YARD**
5 **SKY HIGH**
6 **LAND OF THE DEAD**
7 **DUBAI**
8 **DUBAI**

SM CITY ILOILO
1 **BROTHERS GRIMM**
2 **RESERVED**
3 **DUBAI**
4 **LOVESTRUCK**
5 **SKY HIGH**
6 **THE CAVE**
7 **RESERVED**
8 **CINDERELLA MAN**

SM CITY DAVAO
1 **THE CAVE**
2 **RED EYE**
3 **DUBAI**
4 **A SOUND OF THUNDER**
5 **BROTHERS GRIMM**
6 **DUBAI**
SM CITY CALAGUAN DEL SUR
1 **THE CAVE**
2 **RED EYE**
3 **DUBAI**
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WEDNESDAY,
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1 CINE EUROPA 8
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MTRCB: GP
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PREMIERE THEATRE

3 DUBAI
Subject to MTRCB Rating
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September 23

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4:00pm Villa des Roses
7:00pm Buttoners
10:00pm Dog Nail Clipper

September 24

1:00pm The Spanish Apartment
4:00pm Kroko
7:00pm I Love to Love
10:00pm A Man Not Wanted

September 25

1:00pm Twinni
4:00pm Millions
7:00pm Extranjeras
10:00pm Faithless

September 26

4:00pm Twinni
7:00pm Step by Step
10:00pm Villa des Roses

September 27

4:00pm Buttoners
7:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
10:00pm The Spanish Apartment

September 28

4:00pm A Man Not Wanted
7:00pm Dying To Go Home
10:00pm Kroko

September 29

1:00pm I Love to Love
4:00pm Faithless
7:00pm A Man Not Wanted
10:00pm Extranjeras

September 30

1:00pm Villa des Roses
4:00pm Step by Step
7:00pm The Spanish Apartment
10:00pm Buttoners

October 1

1:00pm Extranjeras
4:00pm Dying To Go Home
7:00pm Kroko
10:00pm I Love to Love

October 2

1:00pm Millions
4:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
7:00pm Faithless
10:00pm Dying To Go Home

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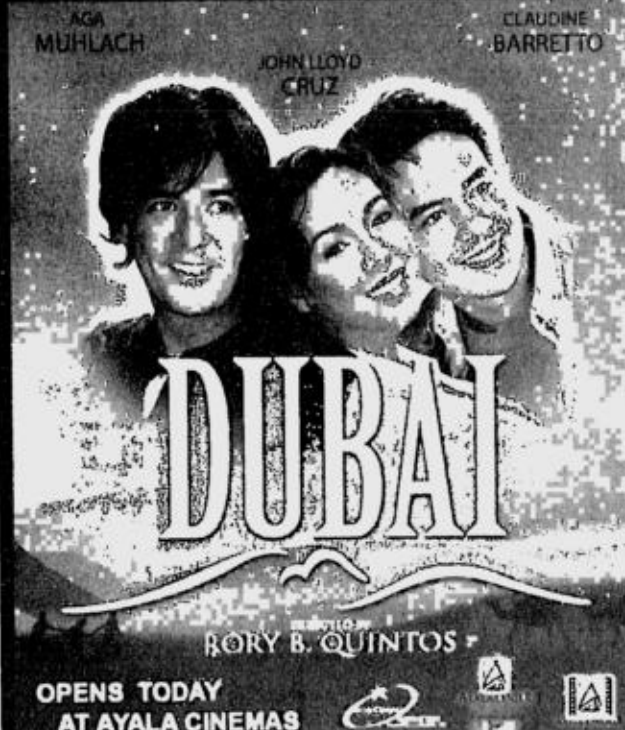
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SPORTS

Injured RP boxer okay to go home

FILIPINO BOXER AYON NARANJO, who was hospitalized following a fight last Sunday in Yokohama, Japan, did not undergo surgery and is able to walk and is in control of his faculties.

This was revealed yesterday by Cebu promoter Rex "Wake" Salud, who is in constant communication with matchmaker Joe Koizumi of Japan.

Salud manages Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon, who failed in his attempt to wrest the WBA minimumweight title from Yutaka Nijida in the co-main event of Sunday's card.

"Naranjo is able to walk. But he still needs to be under extra care. He will be back one week from now," Salud said, also indicating that Naranjo's manager Leonil Lazaro has remained in Japan to be at the side of his boxer.

Naranjo, who is Alfonso Barros Jr. in real life, came into the fight armed with a 13-5 win-loss ledger, and an RP No. 1 superbantam ranking. *Salven Lagumbay*



BEACH VOLLEYBELLES: Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball participants grace yesterday's PSA Sports Forum. From left are Michelle Laborte, Cecille Tabuena, Rolyn Manguicias and Sheryl Laborte. *REM ZAMORA*

Viloria wants Arce next

BRIAN VILORIA, THE NEWLY crowned WBC light-flyweight champion, is just getting started.

Only 17 days after knocking out Mexico's Erik Ortiz at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, the 24-year-old Filipino said he's ready for more.

His American manager, Gary Gittlesohn, is in fact looking at WBC flyweight champion Jorge Arce of Mexico as Viloria's next foe.

Arce, the flamboyant fighter

who's afraid of no one, will defend his crown against Hussein Hussein at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas on Oct. 8.

Viloria will be there to watch the highly awaited rematch between the two fighters. With blood all over his face, Arce knocked out Hussein last March 19.

Gittlesohn said they will watch the fight with interest, knowing that either fighter in the 112-lb class could be next for Viloria, the champion at 108 lbs.

Asistio's 68 leads national amateur

By Musong R. Castillo

BACOLOD CITY—YOUNG TONLITS Asistio hit the first shot of the Philippine Amateur championships, a driver that flailed out-of-bounds to the right and hit houses near the walls of the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club.

But it was hardly an indication of how the rest of his round went.

The 16-year-old junior standout picked up six birdies the rest of the way, salvaging a two-under 68 after rescuing bogey on the first and despite a double on 12 for a one-shot lead over Juvic Pagunsan in the first half of classification yesterday.

Asistio played the 6,197-yard course wisely after that first tee miscue, putting his tee shots where it should be and hitting approaches close for his 34-34, leading the field that features the Philippine training pool and a sprinkling of crack foreigners.

Pagunsan, still favored here despite a series of failures, birdied his first two holes but could only submit a 69 (34-35), a round which he said could have been much lower had he putted consistently.

The 27-year-old RP Team spearhead doubled the par-4 fourth after hitting his drive out-of-bounds, the only other birdie in his round coming on the next hole when he stuck a sand wedge approach to within two feet.

Pagunsan, seeking to win this tournament for the first time, played his last 13 holes in regulation, missing a bundle of birdie putts, one from 2 1/2 feet.

"It could have easily been a 64 or a 63 had I made some close putts," Pagunsan rued in Filipino. "That's the problem I have with my game right now, I'm hitting the ball solid but I can't make the putts when I need them."

Former winner Artemio Murakami signed for a level 70 (36-34) and was alone in third spot, one ahead of a six-man group that included defending champion Jun Bernis, whose 71 (36-35) was marred by a wet double on the 174-yard par-3 third, two bogeys and three birds.

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Pacquiao confirms a happy news

TOKYO—YOU DON'T RUSH TO THIS expensive capital only to again be amazed by a people's love affair with their neat, orderly sidewalks.

If the first sight of old women soaping and scrubbing the pedestrian paths right outside city establishments at the end of a long day here had appeared like a scene from a modern-day fairy-tale, the visitor had only himself to blame.

He has lived too long in a careless city where the sidewalk, definitely unlabeled, is treated like an enemy, spat at and regularly pelted with all sorts of debris.

The visitor has long given up his dream of transporting the Japanese passion for neatness and discipline to his own country in this lifetime.

But listen to this piece of happy news, please.

This one is not about sidewalks. This is about Manny Pacquiao, RP's sporting treasure, who continued to get superstar treatment here.

Pacquiao, here with his lovely wife Jinkee, enjoyed the cool, crisp weather as this city thrilled to the windy rumor of autumn coming.

OK, the report here in the INQUIRER of Pacquiao turning a new leaf by giving up drinking and late nights was treated like a joke, a funny rumor; by certain sectors.

But he was not joking, Pacquiao assured.

Tell them to please stop laughing, Pacquiao told the INQUIRER after a lunch of pink salmon and other seafood dishes in the main dining hall of the Grand Palace Hotel on Saturday.

Pacquiao swore his drinking days are indeed over.

So when was the last time he had a beer?

Not even during the victory feast for his sensational win over Mexican Hector Velazquez in Los Angeles, California, on Sept. 11.

What about during the triumphant homecoming to birthplace GenSan from the California conquest?

He indeed threw a big party.

In fact, Pacquiao said over 30 cases of beer were consumed, with the super fighter singing himself hoarse during the feast that lasted until the wee hours of morning.

Not even a sip of beer to acknowledge the victory toasts?

"I finished one full pitcher, pero orange juice," Pacquiao quipped.

No kidding, his friend Rex "Wake" Salud confirmed after this reporter started shaking his head in disbelief.

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

Salud added that, in a subsequent dinner with friends from the government and the military, all Pacquiao drank was mineral water while the guests quaffed red wine.

So what caused the incredible transformation?

Nothing much, Pacquiao explained, adding that he just woke up one morning with a gigantic hang-over. The headache was so huge he started to weigh things over.

"Wala ka naman makuha sa inom kung hindi sakit ng ulo (All you got from drinking is a terrible headache)," he explained.

So what does he plan to do with his free time?

"Stay at home with my kids, kundi sa farm na lang," the sports hero assured.

Fine. The problem with late nights and alcohol may be over. But this cannot be said of Pacquiao's breakneck schedule, a result of his fantastic triumph in California.

Pacquiao cannot expect even a bit of free time upon his return from here.

He would be irrevocably caught in a whirlpool of commitments and assorted activities.

For example, he graces the PBA opening Oct. 2, before attending a big victory party that same evening. The next day, he's scheduled to be in Davao, before honoring a long line of invitations, interviews and other requests.

Then, before he could wriggle out of the fix, he will have to pack up for a trip back to California to be at ringside for the Oct. 8 fight of his younger bro Bobby.

It won't be easy, Pacquiao swore he often doesn't even have time for himself.

He however assured he would harness all the time in the world to prepare and be at his best in the scheduled rematch against Mexican ring legend Erik Morales.

"Mas malakas at mas handa pa yan kaysa noong laban namin last March (Morales will be doubly prepared than when we fought)," Pacquiao said.

He smiled a quiet smile. It's no secret that his burning desire to get even with Morales was one of the reasons he had to stay away from beer.

(THIS column was sent last Sunday, but got stalled in the Internet traffic.—Ed)

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

History of 'Hawking'

ARK trophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and became an icon in the scientific community.

"This story is about the nature of time both on a deeply personal and on a universal scale," said "Hawking" producer Jessica Pope.

Golden Nymph award winner and Bafta (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) nomi-

nee Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Hawking, with Lisa Dillon, Peter Firth and Michael Brandon in the support cast.

The actor said of his character: "I had no idea that for the first 21 years of his life he was able-bodied ... making the role and the person all the more fascinating to me."



AWARD-WINNING actor Benedict Cumberbatch as the award-winning scientist

den gnome

ERING Oct. 3, and showing 10 Mondays, Wednesdays and on Cartoon Network's Tiny TV den the Garden Gnome." Gordon is a green-fingered garden gnome who loves plants and animals and all environment-friendly. The gards. Lez and Dez make Gordon's that perfect since, if they had ny, there'd be nothing left in the

ycling world

in Cartoon Network's Tiny TV, Top Bill" premieres Oct. 4. The teaches young viewers to reuse cycle: The world of Bottle Top his best friend the Horse is up of every- s and pieces. that people away without g—shoebox— a, paper and paper clips, etc. dummies explore a mountain from old boxes, buckets and peting, truly a setting that chal- children's imagination and cre-

ok fest

.L. of October, starting on the all on Cartoon Network—Fridays to 10:30 p.m.—is "Billy's y Halloweenie!" The wickedly stretch opens with "The Life & of Juniper Lee," followed by 's New, Scooby Doo?," "The dventures of Billy and Mandy" amurai Jack."

ousemate

booted

age A2-1

be less talk, less mistakes." wers seemed to have devel- a major dislike for this rich om La Union. He explained: ss it's my style of saying s. People [who] get to know etter ... know I'm not that

admitted that he now feared out in public.

had no enemies when I en- the contest," he said. "Now, are probably people out who hate me. Everything come so weird."

is usual candid way, JB said ould only miss Say and no ousemate: "I told her I be waiting for her."

w that he's out, first on his a is to meet Say's parents.

was told that Say's mom d get votes for me," JB re- l. "My mom also told me e and Say's mom have got- etty close."

n it's off to the beaches rome in La Union, where he to indulge in his favorite —surfing.

DID YOU KNOW...

comedy King Dolphy was ted watching "Cinderel- Man" at the Power Plant l in Rockwell, Makati on Sept. 15. The star of s-CBN's sitcom, "Quizon nue," wore an all-white rty, as usual. Should we ect a Metro Manila film entry titled "Cinderella ng Pidol"?

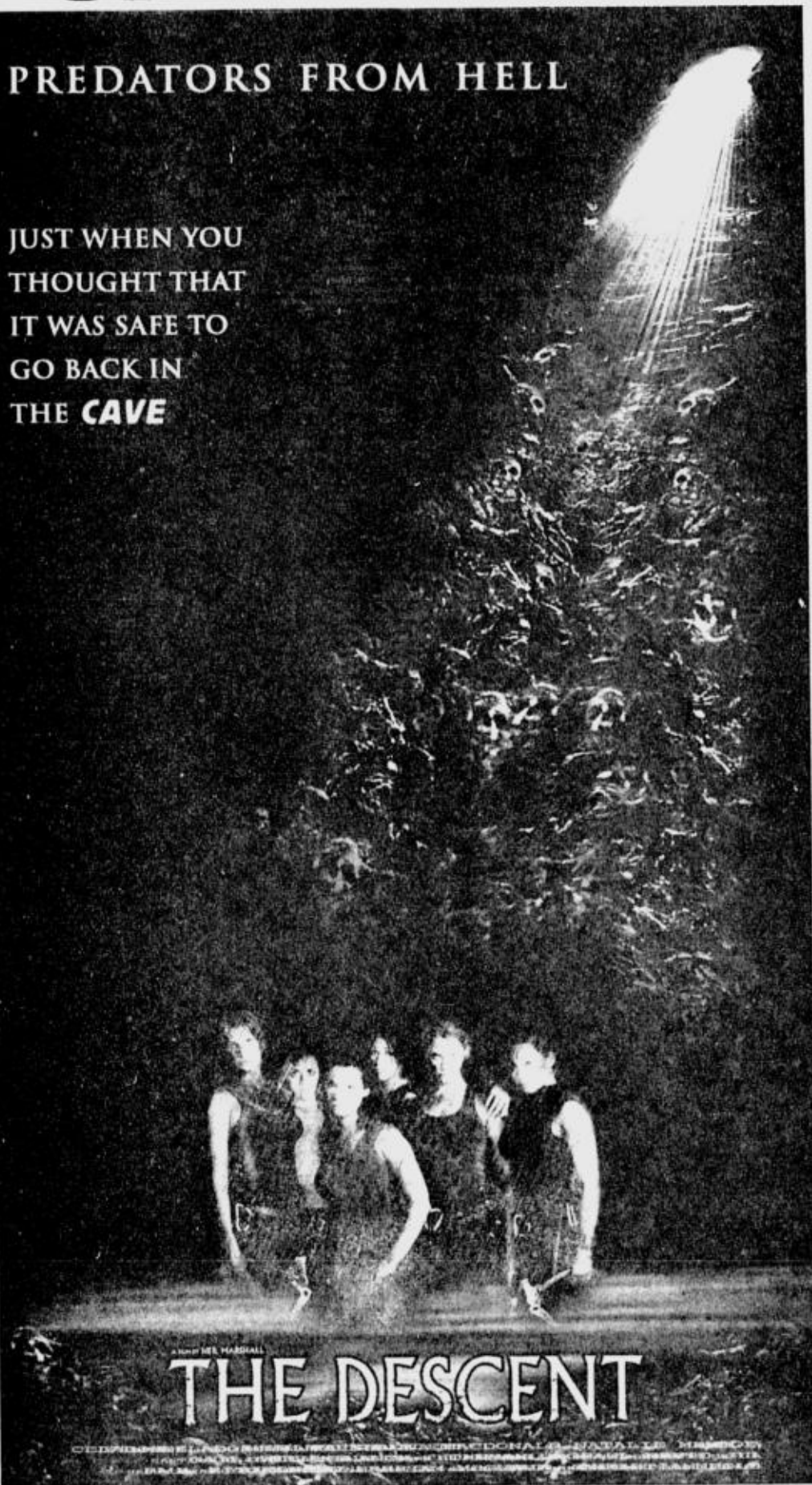
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OPENS TODAY

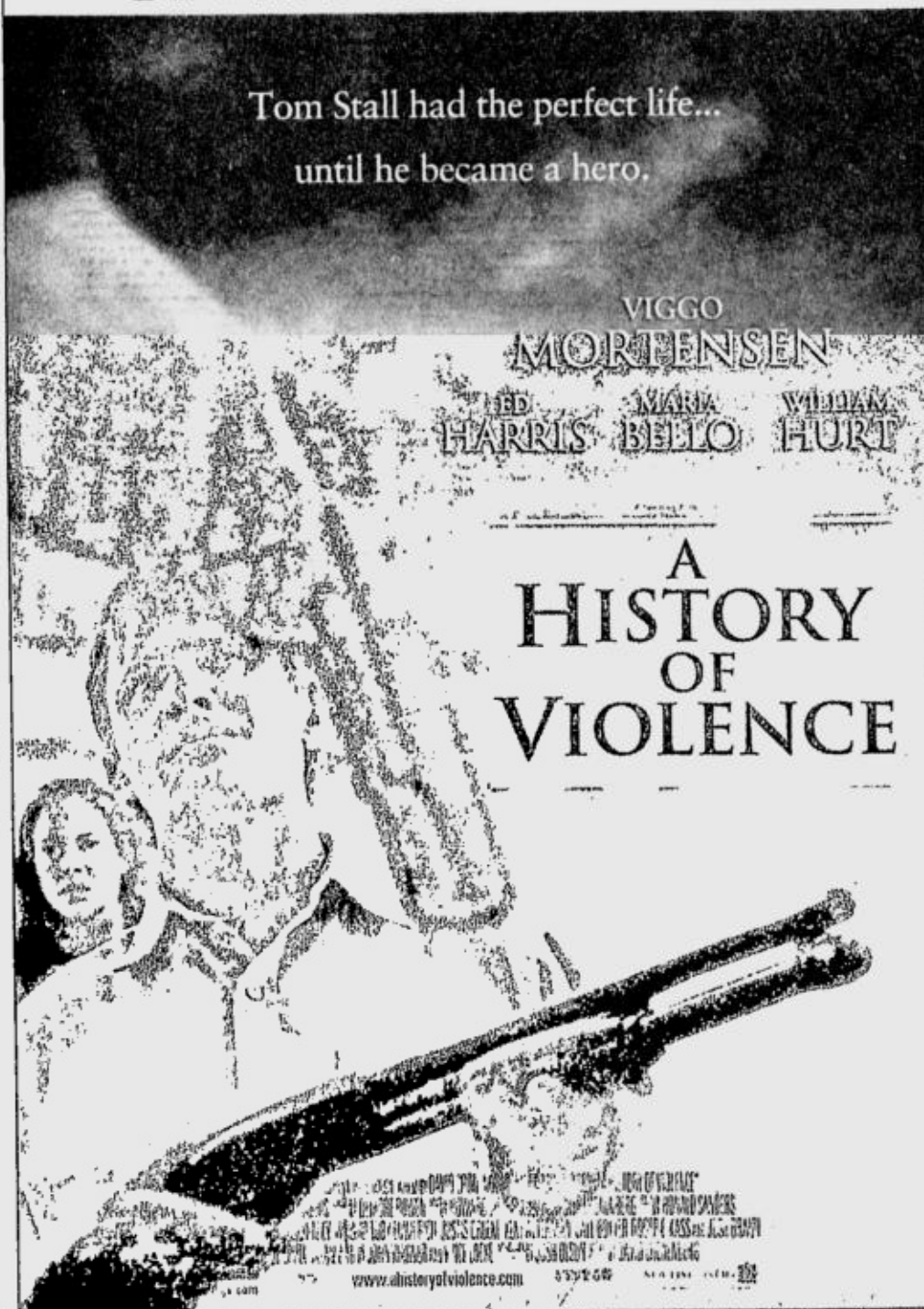
PREDATORS FROM HELL

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE CAVE



OPENS OCTOBER 5

Tom Stall had the perfect life... until he became a hero.



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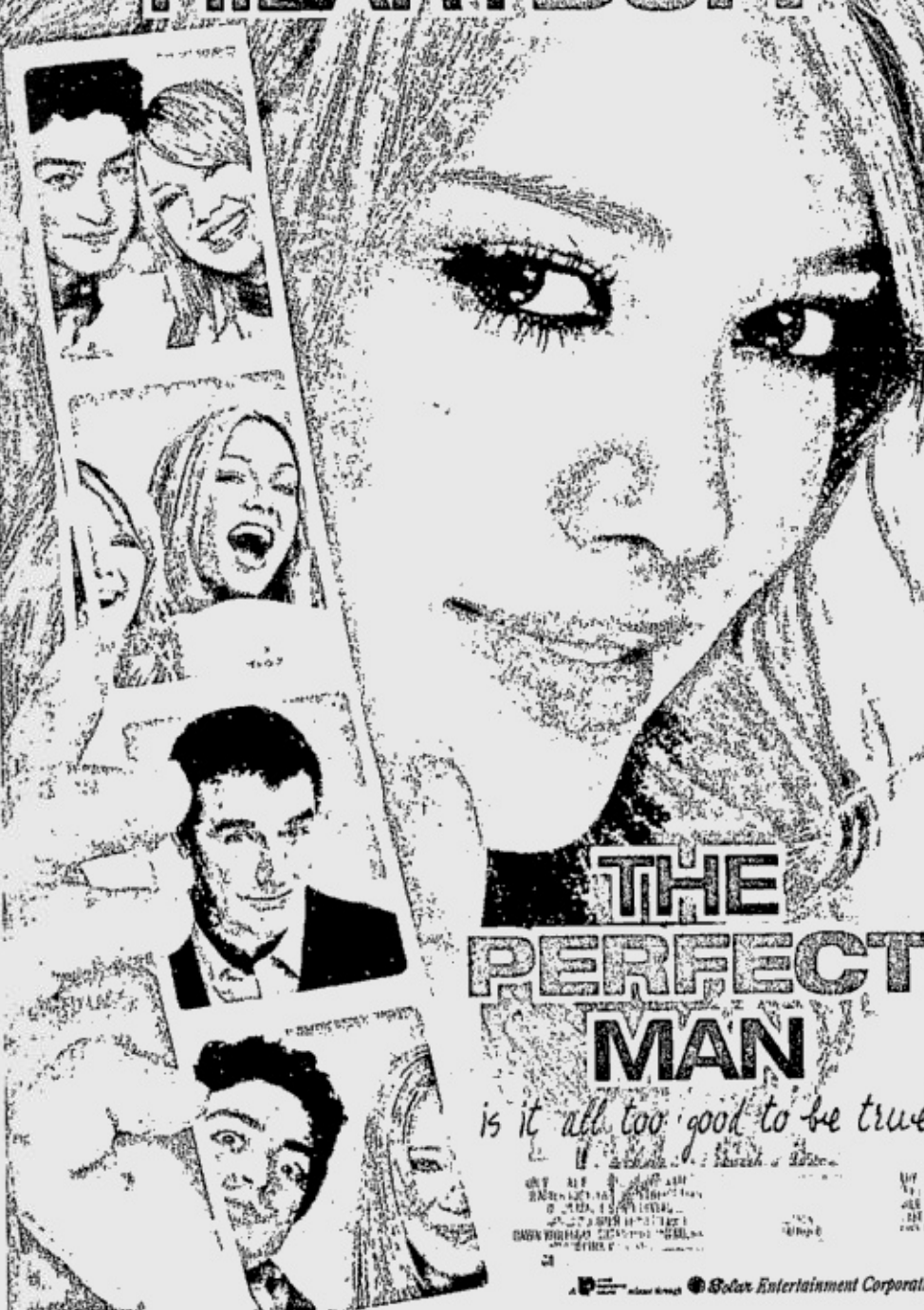
One Missed Call 2

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Produced by TATSUYA MURAI, Screenplay by KATSUMI AMAGUCHI, Story by KENJI KUBOYAMA, Screenplay by KENJI KUBOYAMA
Art Director TAKAYUKI KITA, Executive Producer MASARU SAKI, Editor Y. SUGIYAMA, Music by KENJI KUBOYAMA, Cinematography by TOSHIYUKI KUBOYAMA
Line Producer AKIRA YAMAMOTO, Producer NAOKI SATO and YOSHIO ARIMURA, General Producer KAZUHIRO
Written by MITSUKI KANDA, Screenplay by KENJI KUBOYAMA
Directed by RYUJI YAMAGUCHI
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OPENS TODAY

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LAND OF THE DEAD



ENTERTAINMENT

Poignant, beautiful

NEW YORK—MORE THAN A DECADE after "The Nightmare Before Christmas," Tim Burton marries painstaking stop-motion animation with digital technology in "Tim Burton's Corpse Bride." The product is a film that's wondrous, strange, poignant, and beautifully reflective of the director's distinctive, darkly humorous style.

The all-star voice cast is led by Burton regulars Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

Victor (Johnny Depp) and Victoria (Emily Watson) are meeting for the first time the day before their wedding, arranged by his social-climbing folks.

While nervously practicing his vows in a forest, he feels a hand reach up from the ground, take his ring and grab him. Suddenly he finds himself in the Land of the Dead, where a lovely (but deceased)

young woman named Emily (Bonham Carter) in full bridal regalia enthusiastically insists that they're now married. She's been waiting eagerly for a husband, ever since she was killed on her wedding day.

REVIEW

Victor takes a liking to his inadvertent betrothed, but he'd also hit it off with Victoria during their brief moments together. The fact that you'd be happy to see him wind up with either of them is a testament to how richly the characters are written (the work of John August, Caroline Thompson and Pamela Petler) and to the vulnerability we've come to expect from Depp in any role.

You sort of end up hoping Victor can stay with both women—that perhaps bigamy is legal in the Land of the Dead.

AP

OPENING THIS WEEK

Directed by Neil Marshall

"The Predator" meets "The Cave" in this flick about women spelunkers in grave danger. Dan Jolin of Empire magazine gave it five stars: "Much of [movie's] success is due to the beautiful economy of the concept: six girls, one cave and a whole lotta pain ... Thankfully, Marshall is inventive enough to make this work for, rather than against him. Some scenes are lit by the eerie crimson glow of a flare ... and when there's no light at all, he lets his creepy sound design do all the dirty work." The final verdict? "Brutal, bloody, terrifying, astonishing ... and so tense it'll leave you aching. The most significant Brit chiller since '28 Days Later.'" (Opens Sept. 27.)

The Perfect Man

Stars Hilary Duff, Heather Locklear, Chris Noth

Directed by Mark Rosman

Teen sensation Hilary Duff is Holly, spunky gal who plays matchmaker to lovelorn mom, the equally bland—oops, blonde—Heather Locklear. If you get past the implausibility of La Locklear, the unrepentant vixen of "Melrose Place," being romantically challenged, then you can accept Chris Noth, Mr. Big on "Sex and the City," as someone's Uncle Ben! Aside from providing gainful employment to TV actors like Duff, Locklear and Noth, this movie has little going for it. "It is to be endured rather than enjoyed," hissed Wesley Morris of the Boston Globe. Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution was realistic: "It is what it is: a Hilary Duff vehicle that makes for a relatively pleasant mother-daughter outing." (Opens Sept. 28.)

One Missed Call 2

Starring: Yu Yoshizawa, Asaka Seto, Peter Ho Directed by Renpei Tsukamoto

Was there a "One Missed Call 1?" If you missed that, here's another technophobic thriller from tech-savvy Japan. This supposed sequel was difficult to Google because its Japanese title is "You've Got a Call 2." Derek Elley of Variety was just as befuddled: "Looking more like the fourth or fifth entry in a franchise than only the second, [this] cell phone horror pic manages to ring up a few genuine scares and a neat final twist. However, this has none of the wit or sly nastiness of the original 2004 hit by cult director Takashi Miike, which grossed a surprising \$10 million-plus in Japan." (Opens Sept. 28.)

Dubai

Stars Aga Muhlach, John Lloyd Cruz, Claudine Barretto

Directed by Rory Quintos

Star Cinema continues its glossy series on the trials and triumphs of OFWs with this weepy melodrama on two orphaned brothers in love with one woman. Written by Ricky Lee and Shaira Salvador, "Dubai" is said to be a "touching, intimate story ... [on] the sacrifices people make for their loved ones ... set in a cosmopolitan paradise in the middle of the scorching Arabian desert." After "Milan" and "Dubai" what's next for the peripatetic team? Kosovo? Ethiopia? There's a Pinoy in every corner of the world. (Opens Sept. 28.)

Transporter 2

Stars Jason Statham, Amber Valletta, Matthew Modine

Directed by Louis Leterrier

Described as "fast-paced, unapologetic escapism" by Tom Hallman of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, this slugfest allows former Olympic diver and London street thug Jason Statham to reprise his role as retired Special Forces operative Frank Martin. This time, he is not protecting the sorely missed Hong Kong sex-siren Shu Qi, he is the bodyguard and favorite chauffeur of a wealthy family. When the clan's babies are kidnapped and injected with a fatal virus, it's up to Martin to save the day. Of course. Victoria Alexander of Filmsinreview.com sees Statham as a "tougher, smarter, sexier, heir to Jackie Chan." Yet another asset is the film's producer: French filmmaker Luc Besson, same man behind "The Professional" and "Le Femme Nikita." (Opens Sept. 28.)

The Descent

Stars MyAnna Buring, Craig Conway, Natalie Jackson Mendoza

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TV GUIDE

Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Hosted by Eric Quizon

HOLLYWOOD DREAM

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SUNDAY 9:00PM

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
HBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping	Pasion de Amor	Teledrama	Digas Ka, Mahal Mo Ba Sa? Nanto	Talk Mo To	Melvin Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Wiling Laging	Veinam Rose	Kampanerang Kubla	Kaw Anghel Na Wiling Laging	Pinoy Big Brother	Krusada Kontra Krimen	Yes Yes Show	Bantay OCW	Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema		EZ Shop	12 Kingdoms	Asian X-Games	Slam Dunk	All For Love	24 Oras	Iron Chef	Primer Exca Challenge	Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Big News	My Sassy Girl	Dolby Nuts	Entertainment	ESPN Golf	Sakal
ABC 5	Kung Mahalatin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Defenders of the Earth	Hay Anmol!	Wild Thornberries	Home Shopping Network	Global Battle of the Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Primer Exca Challenge	Trading Spouses	Japan Video Topics	Extreme Make Over	Navy Medicine	BYK 101	Keep Up The Good Work	Japan Video Topics	Japan Video Topics	Sakal
GMA 7	TV Shopping	EZ Shop	New Life TV Shopping	OPM MYX	My MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX	My MYX
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IBC 13																			
SDN 21																			
Studio 23																			
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CNN																			
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Solar Sports																			
Sports Plus																			
Cinemax																			
Hallmark Channel																			
Disney Channel																			
Discovery Channel																			
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Cartoon Network																			
Nickelodeon																			
Lifestyle Network																			
Star World																			
AXN																			
JackTV																			
ETC																			
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Star Movies																			
Cinema One																			
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Imports fell 3.1% in July to \$3.64B

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P 56.295 = \$1
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Y 112.92 = \$1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 27, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 23, 2005

SEPTEMBER

United States	Dollar	0.828295	1.000000	56.273
Japan	Yen	0.007387	0.008918	0.5018
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473619	1.7791	100.1153
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106774	0.128908	7.254
Switzerland	Franc	0.642587	0.775795	43.6563
Canada	Dollar	0.706736	0.853242	48.0145
Singapore	Dollar	0.490842	0.592593	33.347
Australia	Dollar	0.626688	0.756601	42.5762
Bahrain	Dinar	2.197185	2.652661	149.2732
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220873	0.26666	15.0058
Brunei	Dollar	0.489391	0.590842	33.2485
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000061	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020089	0.024254	1.3648
UAE	Dirham	0.225521	0.272272	15.3216
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.2073	67.9384
Argentina	Peso	0.284882	0.343938	19.3544
Brazil	Real	0.367559	0.443754	24.9714
Denmark	Krone	0.134044	0.161831	9.1067
India	Ruppee	0.018868	0.022779	1.2818
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219736	0.265287	14.9285
Mexico	New Peso	0.076242	0.092047	5.1798
New Zealand	Dollar	0.566882	0.684322	38.5089
South Africa	Rand	0.130031	0.156986	8.8341
Korea	Won	0.0008	0.000966	0.0544
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024923	0.03009	1.6933

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise to 6-week high

STOCKS hit a six-week high yesterday, helped by gains in blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 29.75 points, or 1.5 percent, to 1,984.49, the highest since Aug. 17. The market gave up 0.5 percent in the past two sessions, including Monday's 0.2 percent loss.

PLDT was the most actively traded stock, rising 1.8 percent to P1,680, after Napoleon Nazareno, the president of the country's largest telecommunications group, said last week that PLDT's cellular subscriber base continued to improve in the third quarter from the 20.8 million as of the end of the first half.

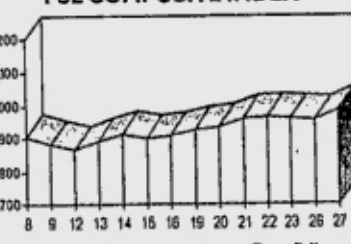
The stock also got a boost from the 1.4 percent gain made by the company's American depository receipts in New York Monday.

"The other stocks were bolstered by gains in PLDT, which came on the back of its anticipated favorable third-quarter earnings," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

Other gainers included Ayala Land, up 3.8 percent at P8.20, SM Prime, higher by 2.7 percent at P7.70, SM Investments, which rose 4.2 percent to P222, and First Holdings, up 2.4 percent at P42.

C&P Homes plunged 23 percent to 17 centavos, after the low-cost housing concern said Monday it will seek shareholders' approval for the restructuring of its capital and \$150 million in fixed-rate notes. AP

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Oil price crisis dampens demand

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S MERCHANDISE imports dropped by 3.1 percent in July from a year ago as foreign demand especially for electronics significantly fell amid the lingering global problem of high oil prices.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that imports for July reached only \$3.64 billion compared with the \$3.76 billion recorded in the same month last year. On a month-on-month basis, the latest imports figure was down by 6 percent from \$4 billion in June.

Electronics imports, which accounted for 46.6 percent of the total import bill for the month,

fell by 11.2 percent year-on-year to only \$1.7 billion.

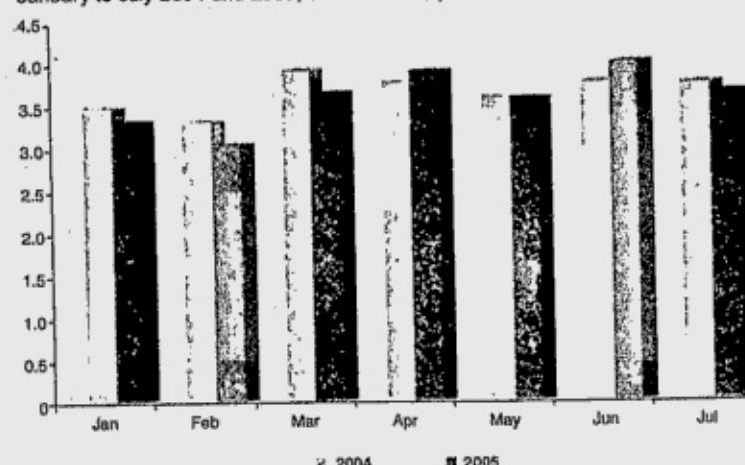
According to Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist at Banco de Oro, the decline in imports showed it was doubtful the country could still hit the 8-percent growth target for exports this year, adding that it could likely hit a maximum growth of 5 percent. A significant part of the country's imports are inputs for products for export such as electronics.

The July imports brought the total imports figure for the first seven months of the year to \$25.17 billion, or 1.7 percent lower than the \$25.6 billion in the same period last year.

With exports for the eight-month period reaching \$22.9 billion, the Philippines registered a trade deficit of \$2.27 billion, which was better compared with last year's \$3.71 billion.

Ravelas blamed high prices of

TOTAL IMPORTS
January to July 2004 and 2005, in billion US \$



oil, a basic commodity, for the decline in imports, saying it dampened demand for other consumer products. Dubai crude averaged at \$52.83 a barrel in July.

He said, however, that oil prices would begin to temper in the second quarter of next year, when demand for oil products was expected to begin softening due to an economic slowdown to be caused by the oil problem itself.

Ravelas added that the decline in

imports manifested how the Philippines was having a difficult time catching up with its neighbors in terms of volume of foreign trade.

"We are losing to them due to high cost of labor and power that makes businesses here uncompetitive," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

The NSO reported that imported mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials accounted for

IMPORTS/B4

GSIS offers to handle vehicle insurance coverage

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE STATE-OWNED GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has offered to help the government plug alarming loopholes in the vehicle insurance system by handling all compulsory third party liability (CTLP) coverage.

But the proposal is drawing flak especially from the private sector, fearing that the proposed interven-

tion would effectively turn into a monopoly and shut off legitimate non-life insurers from the lucrative vehicle insurance business.

In an interview yesterday, GSIS vice president Robert Vinluan said the pension fund had recently presented to the Department of Transportation and Communication the proposal to cover all CTLP coverage through a service agreement with the Land Trans-

portation Office.

"It will be like a one-stop shop, which means that the CLTP policy coverage will already be included in what the vehicle owners will pay to the LTO when they register their vehicles," Vinluan said.

The pension fund, however, has yet to submit a formal proposal to the Insurance Commission, the government agency which discovered widespread cases of fraud

among vehicle insurers.

"We are concerned about the big claims, the corruption, the LTO's image, the public convenience and the non-remittance of taxes due to the government," Vinluan said.

He shrugged off concerns that the GSIS proposal could end up into a monopoly at the expense of the private sector.

"We will reinsure the coverage

GSIS/B4

5 firms vie for Pasig River ferry franchise

By Clarissa S. Batino

FIVE COMPANIES MOSTLY ENGAGED in interisland shipping operations are bidding today for an exclusive franchise to operate a Pasig River ferry system that is targeted to be on stream by early next year, a transport undersecretary said.

This is the third attempt of the government to offer a viable transportation alternative along the Pasig River, which covers the cities Manila, Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig, Taguig and Marikina.

Previous ferry projects flopped because the vessels were not air-condi-

tioned and passengers were turned off by the stench of the polluted river. The government also failed to give the investors enough incentives to make their operations viable.

Transport Undersecretary Agustin Bengzon said the government and the winning bidder would work together to ensure that the ferry system would attract sufficient volume and generate enough returns for investors.

DOTC director Ronilo Bacolod estimated an average daily ridership of 28,000 on vessels that would operate the stations along the river every 15 minutes.

Bengzon said the ferry fare would be competitive with aircon buses, which charge about P2 for every kilometer.

The lowest fare offer will decide the winning bidder. The bidders are Nautical Transport Services, Metro Star Ferry, Ocean Bay Ferry Corp., Mt. Samat Ferry and Montenegro Shipping Lines.

Nautical Transport is a joint venture of a local firm with an Australian group reportedly operating the Sydney Ferry System. Mt. Samat operates a ferry system from Manila Bay to Bataan while Montenegro Shipping runs the Batangas-to-Calapan interis-

5 FIRMS/B3

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cocktails: Delgaditos dial up Saipan /B3

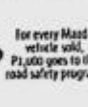
BSP turns to loan market for \$500M /B16



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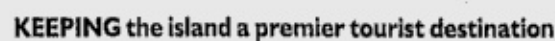
By Ronnel W. Domingo

The high investment registration level last year was attributed to GNPowder Ltd.'s P96.52-billion power complex.

The other projects are into the

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also the BOF's managing head, said P6.5 billion worth of projects were approved in July, which was 14.2 percent higher than the P5.7 billion post-

He said these figures indicate that investor confidence in the Philippines was still high and that investors were not affected by current the political noise.



By Nestor Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

The new development plan will serve as a framework for sustainable investment opportunities

The island produces seven to 10 tons of garbage daily that are dumped on

Among the biggest investment projects in Boracay are the \$60-million (P3.1-billion) Shangri-La Resort and Spa in Boracay's Yapak village and the multi-million-peso Discover Shores hotel.

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On the other hand, the capital charges for banks' high-quality credit exposure to 2 percent from 10 percent as an incentive for good borrowers and lenders.

Delgados dial up Saipan

WHO SAYS FILIPINOS CANNOT BREAK through the 9/11 paranoia and the racial glass ceiling in America?

The Delgados have done just that, finally taking over the telecom franchise area of the giant Verizon in Saipan and the rest of the US Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands last week, after two years of going through the federal wringer and the island's Philippine-style political wrangling.

Not only did the Delgados manage to get FBI/DOJ/Homeland Security clearances, the family that used to own Islacom, according to the grapevine, also obtained debt financing from the First Hawaiian Bank to fund the \$60-million takeover.

Normally, foreigners are allowed to own only up to 25 percent of an American telecom company, but in this case, the Delgados obtained federal and state clearances to acquire 100 percent of the local Verizon unit, Micronesian Telecommunications Corp.

It helped that the Delgados have been the longtime Philippine general sales agents for Continental and Hawaiian airlines, and that the heir and president, 30-ish Jose Ricardo Delgado, attended Brown (magna cum laude) and Kellogg for his MBA.

So as not to further ruffle local feelings, the Delgados retained the current American management, pledged not to lay off any staff and, even better, slashed phone rates.

They even hired the islands' former Supreme Court chief justice to become the general counsel of the telecom venture.

According to local press reports, the Delgado buy-in has already boosted morale among the 120,000 or so Filipinos in the commonwealth who work as waiters/waitresses/maids, plus a sprinkling of professionals, in the various CNMI islands.

The Delgados said they plan to use the Saipan venture as a springboard to other US Pacific territories: The Verizon franchise they acquired already includes cellular phone license on the bigger island of Guam.

More plus factors: The low corporate tax rate (maximum of 10 percent), the \$3/hour minimum wage (nearly half of mainland rates) and the abundance of warehouses and office spaces—with the shift of island-based textile companies to China with the abolition of quotas—make Saipan an alternative call center for US companies sensitive to criticism in Washington of the export of US jobs to Third World countries.

Cattle-class ribbing

EXECUTIVES of Globe Telecom from vice president up are entitled to business-class passage when traveling to regional destinations, but for unclear reasons, Globe president Gerardo Ablaza was spotted taking economy Sunday

5 firms . . . From page B1

land route. The two others are newly formed companies, according to Bengzon.

These companies are bidding on a 10-year franchise to operate the Pasig River ferry system, of which five years will be exclusive. The private group will invest in five vessels by February 2006 and 10 by June of the same year.

Each vessel, which can carry between 100 and 150 people, would cost about P8 million to P10 million. Bengzon estimated the winning group would have to spend P144 million to build 18 vessels that would serve the route for 10 years.

Bengzon said the government would build the 15 terminals comprising the first phase and spanning 17 kilometers, from Plaza Mexico in Intramuros to Marikina. For now, the budget is only for 11 stations or up to Bambang in Pasig City.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission is building the stations using a \$75-million loan from the Asian Development Bank. Putting up each station costs roughly P7 million.

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

when he and the Globe team flew to Singapore for the ongoing annual Congress.

According to the grapevine, while the Globe team was scrimping it out in the cattle-class section, Smart president Napoleon Nazareno and spokesperson Ramon Isberto were luxuriating in the industry-leading business-class section of the same Singapore Airlines flight.

As if to rub it in, Nazareno was later met at the Changi airport by a Mercedes-Benz limousine, while Ablaza, carrying his luggage, hopped into a Japanese econobox, despite being in the home turf of Globe partner Singapore Telecom.

Heard through the grapevine

FRAPORT has asked for more time to submit a more detailed disclosure about its Terminal 3 deal to the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington, DC.

The original deadline was Sept. 27.

If the grapevine is correct, taipan Lucio Tan, in the meantime, plans to cut Manila Hotel owner Emilio Yap out of the Terminal 3 deal by going straight to the Fraport board and offering a better price—and in cold cash.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pltdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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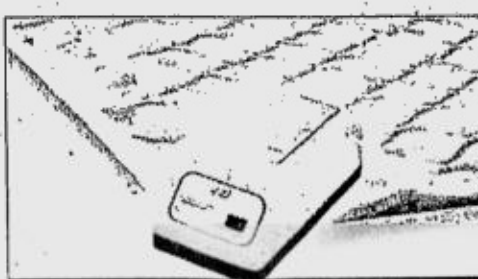
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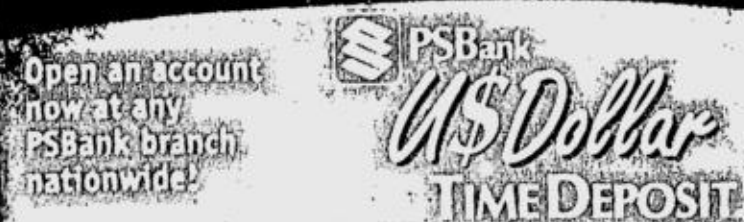


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MAYBANK GROUP OPERATING PROFIT HITS RM4 BILLION (US\$1.06 BILLION) FOR THE FIRST TIME

The operating profit of the Maybank Group, Malaysia's largest banking group and ranked among the Top 20 banks in Asia, has hit the RM4 billion (US\$1.06 billion) mark for the first time, reaching a RM4.32 billion (US\$1.15 billion) profit before tax and provisioning for the year ended June 2005. This is equivalent to a 12.2% growth from the RM3.85 billion (US\$1.02 billion) posted the previous year.

The Group's performance translated into a return on equity of 22.5% for the year compared to 23.9% previously. Earnings per share likewise rose to 68.4 sen (18 cents) compared to 67.3 sen (17 cents) in June 2004.

The Board has decided once again to declare a final dividend of 25 sen (0.06 cents) per share and a special dividend of 35 sen (0.09 cents) per share less 28% income tax respectively. This brings the total dividend for the financial year to 102.5 sen (0.27 cents)

per share including the interim dividend totaling 42.5 sen (0.11 cents) per share. This is in line with the Group's capital management strategy to maintain its capital at an efficient level.

In elaborating on the results in Kuala Lumpur recently, Maybank President and CEO, Datuk Amirsham A Aziz said the favorable results were achieved despite significant pressure on interest margins, increasing competition and challenging market conditions.

He added that overall, both fund-based income and fee-based income expanded. Income from Islamic Banking operations, where the Group remains a leader with 57.3% market share, also grew

substantially to RM711 million (US\$189 million).

The performance of the Group's overseas operations likewise continued to record improvements, contributing a 20.4% rise in revenue from last year's figures. This includes Maybank Philippines, which also posted profit for the 2nd consecutive financial year in its 7 years of operations.

Maybank maintains a worldwide presence in 12 countries, including Singapore, USA, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, China, and Indonesia. In the Philippines, it operates 45 branches, 25 of which located in key cities outside greater Manila area.



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Saturdays with the **INQUIRER**

C&P Homes eyes restructuring of debts, seeks to regain market

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MASS HOUSING DEVELOPER C&P HOMES Inc. is proposing to wipe out P10 billion in debts through a series of restructuring moves, INQUIRER sources said.

They said that if the company succeeded in easing its debt burden, it was bent on regaining its share in the low-cost housing market.

C&P Homes has tapped Ernst & Young's Transaction Advisory Services to serve as a financial adviser. It is expected to set the terms for the debt restructuring.

In a separate disclosure late Monday, C&P Homes corporate information officer Estrellita

Tan said its board approved a restructuring plan for the company's \$150-million floating rate notes issued by its subsidiary C&P Homes International Ltd., which were guaranteed by the mother firm. The proposal will be presented to holders of the FRNs for approval next month.

Options available for the property firm include either paying the debt down, converting it into equity or long-term debt.

C&P Homes' board also approved the restructuring of the company's capital to wipe out its accumulated capital deficit and restructure P2.3 billion long-term commercial papers.

First C&P Homes will reduce its authorized capital stock to P500 million from P5 billion

and its subscribed and paid-up capital to P479.6 million from P4.796 billion.

The company said the resulting surplus would be used in part to wipe out its accumulated deficit.

After applying the surplus, C&P will increase its authorized capital stock to P5 billion at a par value of P1 a share. Out of this capital increase, it proposes to issue shares to holders of P2.3 billion worth of LTCs who will convert their LTCs into equity.

These resolutions will be presented to stockholders in a special board meeting on Nov. 14. Hit by the financial crisis, the C&P Group incurred significant losses that resulted in a capital deficit of P9.53 billion as of end-2004. Insufficient cash flows hampered the ability of the C&P Group to settle its maturing obligations and to pay interest charges in August 1999 and November 1999 on its outstanding Long-term Commercial Papers (LTCs) and Floating Rate Notes Payable (FRNs).

As of last year, the C&P Group's bank loans amounted to P10.05 billion. The Philippine Stock Exchange halted the trading of C&P shares yesterday for one hour to alert all concerned parties on the company's proposed capital restructuring.

Imports . . . From page B1

the second biggest share of the total import bill for July at \$412.24 million, reflecting a 15.8-percent growth over the previous year's level of \$356.1 million because of rising crude prices in the world market.

Other top imports for the month were industrial machinery and equipment, \$153.75 million; transport equipment, \$129.39 million; textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products, \$105.31 million; cereals and cereal preparations, \$99.91 million; iron and steel, \$93.09 million; organic and inorganic chemicals, \$90.07 million; telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, \$78.65 million; and plastics in primary and non-primary forms, \$71.05 million.

The United States remained to be the Philippines' biggest source of imports, accounting for 19.7 percent of the total import bill, or \$718.58 million.

Other top sources of imports for July were Japan, \$589.28 million; Singapore, \$278.23 million; Taiwan, \$276.95 million; China, \$258.82 million; Korea, \$177.73 million; Hong Kong, \$166.61 million; Thailand, \$161.44 million; Saudi Arabia, \$123.95 million; and Malaysia, \$116.51 million.

The NSO likewise reported yesterday that the volume of production index (VoPI), which measures the level of output of the country's manufacturing sector, fell by 1.1 percent in July compared with the year-ago level. The Value of Production Index (VaPI), which factors in cost of production, increased by 13.1 percent.

The NSO said the drop in VoPI was largely caused by significant declines in the production of wood and wood products, which posted a 45.1-percent drop in VoPI, and machinery (both electrical and non-electrical), non-metallic mineral products, publishing and printing, and basic metals.

DISCLOSURES

A BROWN Co. Inc. directors elected on Sept. 23 the following new officers: Walter W. Brown, chair; Victor P. Juat, vice chair; Robertino E. Pizarro, president; Annabelle P. Roberto, treasurer; Patricia B. Juat, assistant treasurer; Atty. Antonio S. Soriano, corporate secretary, and Jasmín S. Sastro, assistant corporate secretary and corporate information officer.

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. elected on Sept. 26 Antonio M. Lagdameo as advisory board member. Its board also issued nonvoting, noncumulative, convertible, nonredeemable, participating preferred shares with par value of P10 per share, and amended the terms of preferred shares accordingly subject to the approval of shareholders and government.

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. disclosed that for the period Sept. 12 to 23, a total of 6,868 shares were exercised and fully paid for under the company's stock option plan. This brings the number of its treasury shares to 28,485,627 shares.

FILSYN Corp. said its corporate secretary, Cirilo T. Tolosa, resigned effective Sept. 27. *Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of September 27, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30.5	30	30.5	691,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	54	53	54	937,300
China Banking Corp.	6.49	6.49	6.49	6.49	600
Citibank Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	50	50	170,200
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27	209,500
Philippine National Bank	33	33	33	33	1,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	47,700
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	610
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2870	2880	2870	2880	150,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,540
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2035	2045	2035	2040	

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	31,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.87	0.97	0.85	0.95	1,310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	770	770	765	770	50,750
People Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	59,000
ISL Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	5,800,000
ISL Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	2,300,000
Philpino Tel. Corp.	3	3.05	3	3.05	2,551,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	1645	1650	1645	1650	201,040
Vantage Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	1,480,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.016	130,700,000

POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	14	13,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	22.25	21.2	22.25	381,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.4	6	6.3	2,917,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	4,680,000
Petrone Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	720,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	20,000
Lat T Containers Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	503,600
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.16	145,000

CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	40,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	450,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	101,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.55	219,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36.5	36	36.5	577,900
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	99,900
San Miguel Corp. B	94.5	94.5	94	94	17,000
Vitacorn Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	200,000

HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	62,000,000
Ayala Corp.	287.5	287.5	287.5	287.5	100,580
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	60,000
Abotit Equities Ventures	5	5	5	5	12,000,000

A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.06	2.1	1,021,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	140,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	25,000
BAGUIO Gold Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Bacnolan Cons Indus Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	140,000

Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	3,780,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Basco Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	100,000

Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	3,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,720,000
Ever-Gotoco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	108,000
H&J Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2,101,000

P&J Prime & Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	11,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	42	41	42	1,187,700
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	58	58	58	58	100
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.07	0.065	0.065	2,300,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	108,000

Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	13,771,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	9,880,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	100,000
SKM Investments Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	339,680

South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Seafrost Resources Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Unilab Res. & Holdings Co	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	200,000
Wellux Industries Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,090,000

MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	130,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.08	0.08	800,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,000

HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	1,840,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.72	80,000
Laurel & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	835,000

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	525,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,400

OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	18,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	690

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8	8.2	8	8.2	11,338,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	160,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.16	0.17	87,880,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,550,000

ELB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	4,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	3,420,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	6,122,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	480,000
Phil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	500,000

Robinsons Land Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,841,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,065,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	

MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	40,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8	8	8	13,000

Benpuet Corp. A	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	13,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,360,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	2,090,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	13,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	10,000,000

Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Manila Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	8,250,000
Philux Mining Corp. A	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	3,248,000
Philux Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	8,000
Samirara Mining Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	170,000

OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	80,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	953,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000

GSIS offers . . . From page B1

with the private sector so the business will also be farmed out," Vinluan said.

At present, for instance, collectible CTLP premiums being reported to the government were much lower than what should be collected based on the number of private vehicles registered with the LTO, indicating

leakages from tax-related premiums on vehicle policies.

2 firms seen investing in Didipio project

By Christine A. Gaylican

PAN PACIFIC COPPER (PPC) OF JAPAN and Korean firm LG Corp. are expected to invest in the \$117-million copper-gold project of Climax-Arimco Mining Corp. in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

Jose Leviste Jr., president of Climax-Arimco, said in a briefing that the company was now finalizing negotiations with the companies, who were said to be interested in infusing equity into the project and forging off-take agreements.

In a news release issued Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said "the development of the Didipio project is seen to attract more foreign investments in the local mining scene as the project holds the first Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) that will prove to be workable in Philippine setting.

Exploration in the project area began in 1989 with construction planned to commence early next year. Commercial production is expected to start in the first quarter of 2007.

The project is projected to have a mine life of 15 years and to employ 500 workers. It is expected to yield 150,000 ounces of gold equivalent yearly.

The biggest shareholders of Climax are ANZ Nominees Ltd. with 33 percent of the shares; Citicorp Nominees Ltd., 15.8 percent; the Den Dutys Corp., 7.2 percent, and Lippo Securities Nominees (BVI), 7.4 percent.

A clear case of harassment, PPI claims

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED FIRM PACIFIC PLANS INC. (PPI) yesterday said there was nothing fraudulent about its decision to spin off part of its business—those involving healthy educational plans—to another company.

PPI also said that the rehabilitation court has no objection to the pre-need firm's desire to continue running its business.

PPI was reacting to the claims of a group of plan holders—the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition (PEPC).

The plan holders are opposed to PPI's plan to sell educational and other pre-need plans.

PPI has already filed an application for a dealer's license with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

PPI spokesperson Jeanette C. Tecson said in a statement that the PEPC was clearly sabotaging the interest of 400,000 fixed-value plan holders who used to be with Lifetime Plans Inc. (LPI), a former subsidiary of PPI.

SEC earlier ordered Lifetime to be folded back into PPI.

"It is a clear case of harassment against PPI, which seeks to revive its business of selling fixed plans and serve its remaining plan holders," Tecson said in a statement.

She said the rehabilitation court—Branch 61 of the Makati regional trial court—has not prevented PPI from pursuing its line of business.

PPI said its application for a license is in line with its rehabilitation petition to stay afloat and serve its remaining plan holders.

On the issue of fraud, Tecson said, "the SEC merely made an allegation of fraud before the rehabilitation court... (the allegation) has not been established."

US firm to set up Asia head office in RP

SUCCESSFACTORS INC., A CALIFORNIA-based supplier of performance management software, yesterday announced it is pursuing more investments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Lars Dalgaard, SuccessFactors founding chief executive officer, yesterday said that the firm would put up its Asia Pacific Regional headquarters in the Philippines, and another in Sydney, Australia.

Dalgaard said the group has initially invested roughly \$1 million into its Philippine hub and will continue to invest more.

"There are people here working and they need (our software), it is exciting here," Dalgaard said.

Showing its earnestness to be visible in the Southeast Asian market, SuccessFactors already inked an agreement with Jollibee Foods Corp. to offer the fast food giant talent management and succession planning solutions to improve standards and track performance of its workforce.

SuccessFactors' global team will work with the top fast food network in the country to help manage the company's employee talent and further drive its explosive growth throughout the Asia Pacific region. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Transport officials proposing development of LRTA property

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION is planning to develop an idle one-hectare property of the Light Rail Transit Authority in Lawton, Manila.

Transport Undersecretary Agustin Bengzon said the vacant property could be converted into a multi-modal terminal for passenger jeepneys, buses and the planned Pasig ferry system.

LRTA administrator Mel Robles said the agency was open to renting out the property, especially if the transportation department would bid out the operations of the terminal to the private sector.

The government has the option to

bid out a lease contract for the property, said Robles.

Bengzon said the project was endorsed by three undersecretaries, including himself, to Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza. It would be up to Mendoza, he said, if he would pursue the project as he was also the chair of the LRTA.

A ferry system will start operating along the Pasig River in February next year. The government will bid out an exclusive franchise to operate the ferry system for five years, said the transport official.

The transportation department earlier identified sites in Caloocan City, Alabang and in the Coastal area in Roxas Blvd. as potential transport hubs, which

were seen to help decongest traffic in Metro Manila.

An 11-hectare area in Balintawak, Caloocan City was being eyed to host a P900-million multi-modal center to be developed and operated by the private sector.

The site of the terminal is adjacent to the new toll gate of the North Luzon Expressway. This hub would cater to more than 6,000 provincial buses plying the north Luzon route.

A multi-modal hub would serve as a terminal complex for public transport and a parking lot for private car owners. It would be put up near railway stations that would enable commuters to have an easier time reaching their destination.



BENGZON

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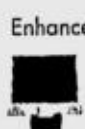
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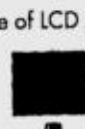
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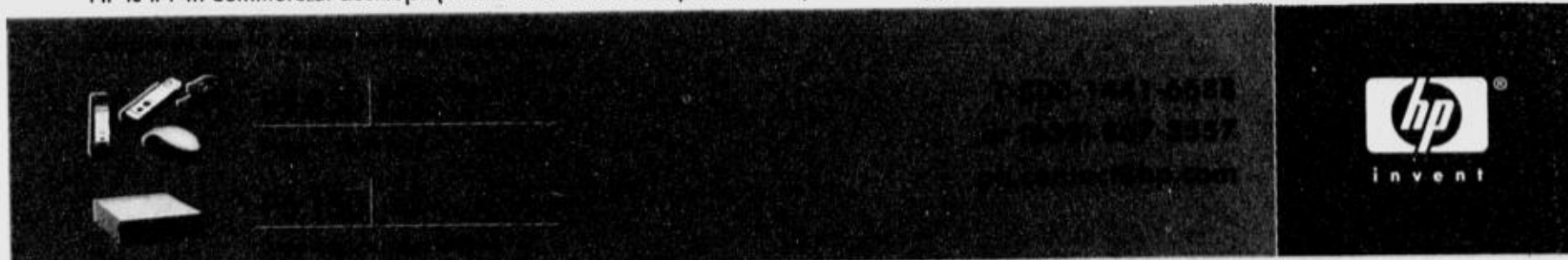
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Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 1Q 2005

PEOPLE *at* WORK

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Regina Galang Reyes

Pinay wins Emmy, makes a name in Hollywood

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

THIS MONTH, THE 57TH ANNUAL Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards once again rolled out the red carpet with great hype. It is an annual event that happens thousands of miles away but year after year, we keenly watch larger-than-life movie stars and celebrities like Jennifer Garner and Quentin Tarantino grace the red carpet glittering in silk and gems.

This year, one of our very own walked down that same red carpet, glowing as brightly as Hollywood's most celebrated jewels, to receive her own golden-winged woman statuette.

The trophy of a winning woman holding an atom skyward is more than appropriate for Rita Nazareno's milestone achievement. In winning an LA for Short Promo as producer of Good Day LA Promax Promax for Fox 11, not only does she hold up the banner of women as achievers, she also brings honor to the Filipino name.

Multi-awarded producer

"When I see a promo I did on the air, that's quite fulfilling. It's also a wonderful thing when people take notice, which my job is promote, make sure they watch the show I promote," shares Nazareno of her experience. "Getting awards is quite nice too. But truly, it's when you get home and you sit on the couch and say to yourself, I did *jwell* at work today. That's nice."

Nazareno did more than do well in work to earn that Emmy recognition. In fact, she has been lauded several times for her work as creative services producer of KITT TV Fox 11 and KCOP UPN 13 in Los Angeles, Cali-

CAREER TALES



fornia. Fox 11 and UPN 13 are units of the Fox Entertainment Group. Both TV stations are Fox Television Station Group's duopoly in LA.

Under creative services, Nazareno produces and writes image and theatrical spots for "Good Day LA," an honest, in-your-face local morning show. She also handles sweeps and radio spots and manages photo shoots, projects and events. In the four short years she's worked under creative services, Nazareno has earned five Gold Promax Awards, two Silver Promax Awards and recently, one Emmy Award. Promax is an international organization of promo professionals.

Geared for television

A big fan of "Murphy Brown," the TV comedy series about a tough-as-nails television journalist, it was inevitable that Nazareno would make her mark in the boob tube industry. As a kid, she saw everything in moving stills. "When I was younger, I really liked watching TV and movies. It was a passion that seemed different than just passing time," recalls the producer. She claims that when she read books, she would imagine the stories in her head like a movie.

She was trained at an early age when her parents strictly monitored her reading materials. "I was forbidden to read Sweet Valley High books when I was in fourth

grade which made me an outcast in the exchanging-books-loop. I was told to read Erich Segal's 'The Class' and was instructed to 'throw the fluff books away. Probably turned out to be a good thing," she adds.

Nazareno was studying in St. Scholastica's College when her family moved to the States after the first People Power Revolution. After high school, Nazareno earned her Communications Arts degree at the Loyola Marymount University in California. She went back to the Philippines after college to do some notable productions for television movies and commercials.

In fact, she produced the movie "Langit sa Piling Mo" with stars Eric Quizon and Giselle Tongi. Nazareno also dabbled into writing. She wrote a short film titled "Pagsabatan" as an in-house producer and managing partner for Garibaldi International Productions in Manila. A few years later, she decided to improve her craft further and earned her master's degree in motion picture and video at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco where she graduated as valedictorian.

Filipina at Fox

Back in San Francisco, Nazareno did some independent work, but when the dot-com boom hit, it became increasingly difficult to sustain a good living.

Before long, she decided to move to LA and try the glitz and glamour of Hollywood. Starting from scratch, she worked as a part-time programming assistant for Fox. Nazareno's talent and drive didn't go unnoticed for too long. In three months' time, she was promoted and started doing publicity for the company. At that time, the general manager saw several of the productions Nazareno did in Manila and San

NAZARENO

Francisco, and he was convinced that she was perfect for creative services.

For a time, the corporate culture in television became a difficult challenge for Nazareno. To overcome this, she had to learn to be strong and independent, much like her fictional idol "Murphy Brown" who was brilliant, persistent and not the least bit afraid to challenge and ask the tough questions from people of authority. "Whether in Manila or here (LA), I try to infuse my work with a little bit of that independent spirit that I hope I still have," shares Nazareno.

Not settling for less

Nazareno notes that the culture and environment in the broadcasting industry here and abroad are just as similar as they are different. "There are glaring differences and there are boggling similarities. And not any one is better. One might be technically more advanced but in the end, I believe it comes down to never settling. Always do the best you could, given what you have. Never settle for *pwede na 'yan*."

Indeed, Nazareno never settles for less.

It was a principle that brought her to the red carpet. For her, it was a highlight in her career when the promo was shown at the ceremony and the television professionals in the audience laughed, obviously entertained with the self-deprecating spot she produced. But the golden trophy is only part of the fulfillment. What she lives for at work is the daily rewards of her job. According to her, there is no typical day. In the office by 7 a.m., some days she's writing, other days she's in production. Other times, she's editing or making sure the promos are right on schedule.

Each and every single unique day brings her something new to learn from because like most Filipinos abroad, she wishes to come back home someday with great plans. "I'd like to go back home someday and be able to make use of what I've learned in these parts. I'd like to be in a capacity to create a brand and a look for a TV station that really works, that blends together seamlessly, and that's graphically excellent."

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanueva-pldtdsl.net)

Wildlife conservationist helps protect forests

By Iime Morales Aznar
Contributor

WHERE WOULD SOMEONE WITH A MASTERS in Wildlife Management from UP Los Baños work in the Philippines? Fortunately, scientist and wildlife conservationist Blas Troy Tabaranza found a perfect fit between his passion and work in his job as director of Operations Group of Haribon Foundation.

The Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources is a membership organization dedicated to the conservation of Philippine biodiversity.

Tabaranza studied Biology in Mindanao State University, then moved to UP Los Baños for his masters. He became a teacher in UPLB and MSU, then set up a chapter of Haribon in Iligan City. He later joined the organization as a full-time staff in 1994 when Haribon needed someone to manage a program in Manila that year.

He decided to transfer from Iligan to Manila because there is a "national and international dimension" in his conservation work if he is to work from Manila. "I like the work, the challenge is there, and I enjoy the work," he says, "I still work as a biologist, do research, but as you grow older, you are given other tasks like administration," referring to his tasks as director of Operations Group for the same organization.

Haribon and biodiversity

In Haribon, Tabaranza is one of the technical persons to consult when it comes to scientific matters concerning biodiversity, conservation, birds, mammals, reptiles, etc. "In biodiversity (biological diversity), everything has life—from the ants to the whales," Tabaranza explains. "Man is a beneficiary of biodiversity, because everything we eat, for example, comes from there; like water that comes from the forest, the air we breathe comes from trees and plants—it's a complex system of organisms."

Biodiversity is all of the life forms around us, including plants, animals, microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the intricate ecosystems that they form. "The survival of our country is determined by biodiversity," he says. "The more we destroy our biodiversity, our forests and all the organisms in it, the more we kill ourselves."

Multiple roles

Tabaranza helps in the management of two core businesses of Haribon: the conservation science and development division and the site action group. Biologists and foresters who do actual research and publication are involved in the first one, while the Site action group is comprised of people who implement projects on the ground, working with the people in the communities. "We have a program called Site Conservation Action where a group of sociologists and economists work to promote conservation



TABARANZA

with the people," he explains. Tabaranza says that a link has been established between biodiversity conservation and the people: without conserving biodiversity habitats, people will not survive.

Aside from administration work, Tabaranza reveals that he still does a lot of fieldwork. "I still climb mountains. I also conduct training for different groups like teachers, young biologists, students, local government officials, even DENR staff."

Haribon provides training in the fields of science, education and advocacy. "Without training, biologists will remain in the laboratory with their microscopes," he says. "But we need field biologists, there is a big demand for that, for scientists who will go out in the field, collect data and propose solutions." Tabaranza adds further that training is open even to those who are not students of biology. Citizens who are concerned about biodiversity and environment issues can opt to learn more and contribute in the conservation work being done.

Need for conservation

"We are at that point where we have gone beyond the sustainable limits of forest management," Tabaranza discloses. "We reached the limit of sustainable threshold in the 1950s and 1960s; we need at least 40 percent to 50 percent of forest cover to enjoy continuous ecological balance, meaning, no landslides, enough water and healthy air."

Haribon published the first "Red Data Book" on threatened birds of the Philippines, which took Tabaranza and the team of researchers and writers five years to finish. "We are the number one country with the most threatened birds in the whole world," Tabaranza announces. "The eyes of the international community concerned with conservation are on us, particularly in terms of birds and terrestrial vertebrates."

Tabaranza cites improper environmental

policies and the lack of conservation and protection efforts as two of the main reasons why we have lost about 20 million hectares of forest area. "We used to have 21 million hectares of forest in the early 1900s; now we have less than a million—all the biodiversity species are gone," he says bleakly. Everything—the mosses, orchids, frogs, all the animals and plants—simply died.

"Although we have documented the threatened species, we don't know how many have become extinct already," he says. "That's automatic, your house is set on fire and you're inside, of course you will die."

Conservation efforts

This is where reforestation, protection, and rainforestation/reforestation efforts come in. "Before we lose anymore of our precious forests, let us not give the remaining areas to loggers," he pleads. Faced with many obstacles like lifted logging suspensions, revitalized mining activities, and other harmful decisions and actions, scientists like Tabaranza find more reason to step up the efforts towards wildlife conservation.

"When are we going to stop?" he asks. "We only have a few remaining watersheds (forested areas) in the country, and our precious water flow from these."

If we lose the watersheds, then naturally, we will die. During the rainy season, flooding will be rampant because there are no more forests to act as sponge for the heavy flow of water. According to Tabaranza, since most of our forests are gone and the remaining flowing water is dirty, we are forced to buy purified water for our daily consumption. Tabaranza remembers, "That was not the situation two decades ago, we used to have free-flowing waters from the forests, rivers, waterfalls and streams."

(E-mail blubitel@yahoo.com to receive this follow-up article.)

How do you get on the same page with a coworker?

DEAR WW: I'VE HAD A LONG STANDING feud with a coworker. I'm starting to think that it might be time to end it, but I don't even know where to start.

Fighter

Your e-mail reminded me of the 22-year-old man who robbed a Vancouver, WA Successully eluded police after a high-speed getaway. Unfortunately, he got lost and decided to stop at a gas station to get directions. Yep, you guessed it. He went back to the same Chevron station he'd robbed. He was quickly arrested.

He'd robbed, this guy isn't the only person who is paying the price for revisiting the scene of a crime. You and your coworker seem to be stuck in a similar vicious cycle. I've listed some tips below to take your relationship to a better place. For more, check out Tim Ursiny's "Coward's Guide to Conflict" (Source, 2003).

Did you start your relationship off on the wrong foot? Just because a relationship is pointed in the wrong direction, it doesn't have to continue that way. Some of my best friends and I started off on the wrong foot. And maybe that's why the relationships have turned out so well; once a relationship is reclaimed, chances are that both of you will appreciate it more. The best first step? Offer to buy them coffee or lunch. I've found a little generosity can go a long way.

Are you big enough to let a grudge die? The energy it takes to tend a grudge is much better spent getting your work done. Reliving a perceived wrong over and over in your mind or

gossiping about it to others is the only way to keep a grudge thriving. Try to starve grudges, not feed them.

Do the two of you have differences in style? Have someone suggest a great idea that you would have never thought of in a million years? Chances are that their brain is wired differently than

yours, or they've had different experiences, or their strengths are different. Whatever their origin, differences in style are something that should be appreciated and embraced, not resisted.

Are either of you being selfish? Outside of Mother Teresa, most of us have our selfish moments. If you're the one acting selfishly, try to stop. If the other person is, rather than focusing on one selfish act, it's important to remember all the people who've let you back in their good graces after you've done something negative. Return the favor by being more charitable now.

What if you reach out and you are rebuffed? Everyone has a bad day. If the relationship is important, and what relationship at work isn't, then you might have to resign yourself to having to offer multiple olive branches. Look for opportunities to do a good deed and the chances are that your efforts will be rewarded.

Follow these tips and your relationship at work won't be driving in circles, it will be pointed in the right direction.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

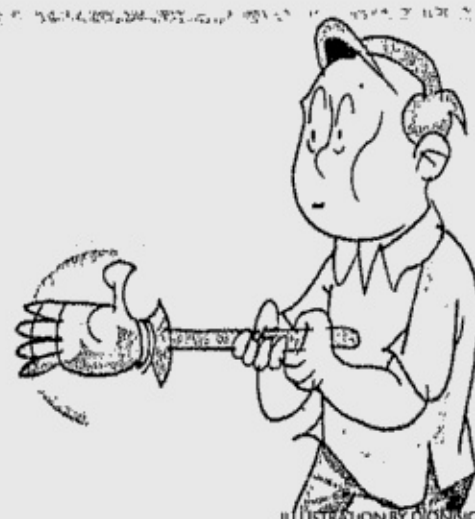


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Public school teacher needs help to get books for school library

By Tita Datu Puangco

I AM A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER here in Pangasinan. At present, I am also the reading coordinator and library resource center custodian. I have always clung to the idea that literacy, knowledge, and social consciousness are byproducts of discriminating reading habits. I try to promote reading interest and awareness in my students but I am having difficulty enticing them to visit the library. I don't blame them. Our library definitely needs a makeover. For one, it has a very slim collection of paperbacks and reference materials.

I read INQUIRER as often as I can. I can't afford to buy my own copy regularly. I wait till the school copy has been read by all. I read your column and I thought of writing you for assistance. I have e-mailed government and nongovernment sectors and personnel about our need for more books but my request seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

I do hope you can find it in your heart to donate books for us here in the province. Or at least send me e-mail addresses of people or agencies, which can grant my humble request. I would like to inspire my students to acquire the love for reading. But we need books! Books of great minds and enlightened souls!

Am I asking too much? My colleagues think I am wasting my

time writing even politicians to help us out. Yes! I have actually e-mailed several already. Are my efforts really futile? I don't think so. I told myself. I will press on till I see our library full of books and students having a great time reading.

Thank you in anticipation for a favorable response.

APB

First of all, thank you for your very inspiring letter. It speaks of courage, determination and vision. I am positive that with your persistence, your vision will become a reality soon. I empathize with you and can connect with what you are trying to do. You remind me of a school teacher who long ago would bring home books from the

school library to encourage me and my brothers and sisters to read. She happened to be my mother. I agree that the books we read helped shape us and our future. Even today we continue to be voracious readers.

Our contribution

Over the weekend, I bought a wonderful book from a bookstore that sells secondhand books. The book is entitled, "Open My Eyes, Open My Soul," created by Yolanda King and Elodia Tate. It is a book that the cover proclaims celebrates our common humanity. It is one book that lifts and in-

spires you, that gives you hope in the innate goodness of humanity. It was for me time well-spent, one of those days where one simply wants to cocoon and rest. Putting on classical music and going through the book, a collection of short stories and poetry, it gave me such a restful weekend. It is one book I can read and reread and keep and treasure. But my lifestyle is not to keep but to share. So this book is my personal gift to you.

I will also meet with my children to put together all the books we can spare from the house and send them to you. Mid-October, I will be going up to Baguio for a speaking engagement and I will deliver the books personally to you by then.

Appeal for help

Is this an elementary school or high school you are working for? Knowing our generous readers, expect a deluge of materials locally and abroad. I don't have to send e-mail addresses to you. I also make

through this column a public request to my friends and associations where our company has membership to come to your help: Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Society for Training and Development, Organization Development Professional Network among others.

I also wish to make a personal appeal to foundations that help public libraries and bookstores with excess

inventories for assistance so we can make the dream of our reading coordinator come true.

To our readers, if there are good books you can spare our library custodian, send them directly to her school. Get in touch with her. Her e-mail address is agnesb712000@yahoo.com. Many thanks and may God bless you all.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training.)



ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK



10 time savers

By Dr. Donald E. Wetmore

IN MY TIME MANAGEMENT SEMINARS, which I have conducted for more than 100,000 people from around the globe, I show people how to get more done in less time, with less stress and to help them have more time for the things they want to do in their work and business lives.

If you can recapture a wasted hour here and there and redirect it to a more productive use, you can make great increases in your daily productivity.

Here are 10 of the techniques I share in our time management seminars, each one of which will help you to get at least one more hour out of your day of additional productive time.

1. **Maintain balance.** Your life consists of seven vital areas: health, family, financial, intellectual, social, professional and spiritual. You will not spend equal amounts of time in each area or time every day in each area. But, if in the long run, you are spending a sufficient quantity and quality of time in each area, then your life will be balanced.

But ignore anyone of your areas (never mind two or three!), and you will get out of balance and potentially sabotage your success. Fail to take time now for your health and you will have to take time for illness later on. Ignore your family and they may leave you and cost you a lot of time to re-establish relationships. It is especially challenging for self-employed people to maintain balance, isn't it?

2. **Get the power of the pen.** A faint pen has more power than the keenest mind. Get into the habit of writing down things to do using one tool (a Day-Timer, pad of paper, Palm Pilot, etc.) Your mind is best used for the big picture rather than all the details. The details are important, but manage them with the pen. If you want to manage it, you have to measure it first. Writing all things down, not just incoming orders, helps you to more easily remember all that you need to accomplish.

3. **Do daily planning.** It is said that people do not plan to fail but a lot of people fail to plan. Take the time each night to take control of the most precious resource at your command, the next 24 hours. Plan your work and then work your plan each day. Write up a to-do list with all you "have to's" and all of your "want to's" for your next day. Without a plan for the day, you

can easily get distracted, spending your time serving the loudest voice, the noisiest customer, rather than attending to the most important things for your day that will enhance your productivity.

4. **Prioritize it.** Your to-do list will have crucial and not crucial items on it. Despite the fact most people want to be productive, when given the choice between crucial and not crucial items, we will most often end up doing the not crucial items. They are generally easier and quicker than crucial items. Prioritize your to-do list each night. Put No. 1 next to the most important item on your list. Place No. 2 next to the second most important item on your list, etc. Then, tackle the items on your list in order of their importance. You may not get everything done on your list, but you will get the most important things done. This is working smarter, not harder, and getting more done in less time.

5. **Control procrastination.** The most effective planning in the world does not substitute for doing what needs to be done. We procrastinate and put off important things because we don't sense enough pain for not doing it or enough pleasure to do it. To get going on something you have been putting off, create in your mind enough pain for not doing it or enough pleasure to do it. I prefer the pleasure approach. Take a procrastinated item and turn it into a game. Work with one thing in front of you at a time so other things won't distract you ("Out of sight, out of mind"). Break it down to little bite-sized, manageable pieces. Get it started, take the first step and you will likely continue it to completion.

(To be continued next week.)

(For more Free Time Management Tips, visit www.balancetime.com or e-mail ctsem@msn.com.)

Ateneo CORD offers seminar on family businesses

THE ATENEO CENTER FOR ORGANIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (CORD) will be conducting its eighth Trendwatcher Series entitled, The Journey to Professionalization: Experiences of Small and Medium Sized Filipino Family Businesses today, 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Amorsolo Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, 1 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

In this learning session, family business experts give insights on professionalization

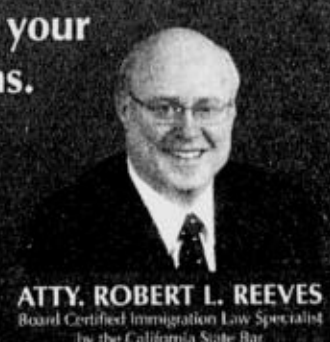
and ways to successfully install HR management systems in family businesses. Results of a study on the professionalization of small and medium Filipino family businesses will also be presented.

For inquiries and reservations, contact Ateneo CORD at tel. nos. (032) 426-5931 or 426-6282, fax no. (032) 426-6065 or email atenecord@admu.edu.ph. For more information, visit their website at www.ateneocord.org.

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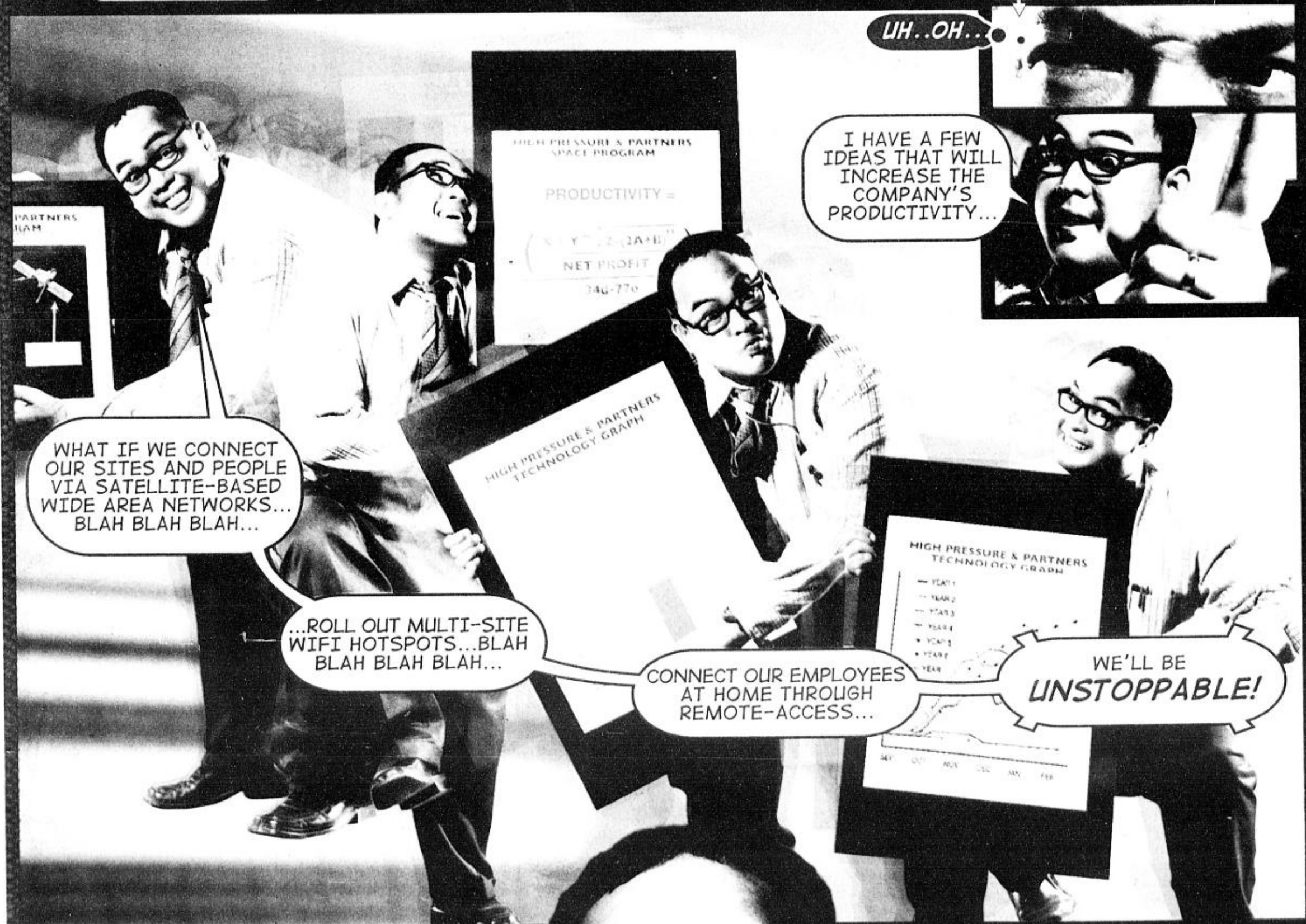
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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

20M kids prone to vehicular mishaps

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE IS NO IMAGE more horrible than a child being hit by a speeding car. The verbal description from trauma surgeons alone would make anyone shudder: The vehicle hits a child on the lower torso, from the hips down to the shin, so the child's chest and face slams onto the hood of the car.

Instantaneously, the internal organs are damaged. The child's limp body is thrown several meters into mid-air, then hits the pavement with a sickening thud. The child's head slams onto the curb. If the child survived the first impact—that of his or her body with the vehicle—then the second impact—that of the head and skull cracking onto the hard concrete—would certainly snuff the life out of the child.

Trauma surgeons

It's that one-two punch of being hit by speeding vehicles that all parents pray never happen to their kids. It's that same image trauma surgeons hope never to face again.

Surgeons Orlando Ocampo and Rafael Consunji, both heads of the Philippine General

Hospital's trauma and ICU departments, respectively, recently talked on "Vulnerable Road Users" seminar organized by the Automobile Association Philippines, National Center for Transport Studies and Toyota Motors Philippines Inc.

Both spoke as officers of Safe Kids Philippines, a nongovernment organization advocating safety practices for children, motorists and all other pedestrians. Consunji is the president of the Safe Kids Philippines, while Ocampo is its board member and treasurer.

Vulnerable to car accidents

The two revealed that 20 million children (aged 18 and below) walk to school every day, leading them to conclude that children are easily the most vulnerable to vehicular accidents.

Safe Kids Philippines' data also showed that every hour, 11 Filipino children are either killed or injured in a vehicular accident. Consunji stressed that this is based on joint estimates from Asian Development Bank and National Center for Transport Studies.

More alarming still, said Ocampo, is that only a fourth of schoolchildren who walk the streets are being supervised by adults.

"Every day is a death-defying act for a child," Consunji said.

Nearly half (46 percent) of all Filipinos are aged 18 and below.

Dangerous places

As part of the "Walk This Way" program, Safe Kids Philippines tours schools identified as high-risk areas.

With the help from multinational courier company Fedex, the "Walk This Way" program also monitors crossroads, sidewalks and barriers that prevent children from using walkways and into dangerous places (such as behind parked cars or near manholes).

Ocampo said members of the organization also look out for specific portions of vehicles, such as jeepney antennas and other sharp edges, and even

"superextended" bumpers, that can cause serious injuries to children and adults alike. He also has a photo of a boy who lost an eye when he was hit by the sideview mirror of a passing vehicle.

Ma. Theresa A. Perez, executive director of Safe Kids Philippines, said the organization offers safety lectures to 15 schools in Pasay, 15 in Parañaque and 25 in Olongapo for Grade 5 and 6 students. Among the suggested instructions is teaching kids how to be more conspicuous when crossing the roads, such as raising their hands up so motorists could more readily see them.

Causes of road accidents

During a Responsibility In

Drivers Education seminar, it was revealed that 77 percent of accidents are caused by driver error that could have been prevented.

The common reasons that lead to road accidents are speeding, violating rights of way, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, passing (overtaking) improperly, following too closely (tailgating), and poor road conditions.

These causes were enumerated during the (RIDE) seminar-workshop for motoring writers conducted by the driving experts of the Tuason Racing School, Ford Philippines and Mazda Philippines.

The seminar also predicted that two out of five drivers

would most likely be involved in a DUI incident in their lifetime. This is because driving, the experts say, involves sound mental judgment as well as motor abilities, and that when drivers are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, mental judgment is impaired.

The RIDE seminar instructors also lambasted the reasoning "I don't need to wear seat belts *malapit lang pupuntahan ko* (my destination is near). The instructors said these would eventually become the drivers' "famous last words."

Most accidents, they reveal, happen within a 25-km radius from the drivers' homes; and even a 40 kph impact can be fatal if drivers aren't in harness.



THE MAKATI showroom of Thule Philippines

Thule inaugurates Makati showroom

By Charles E. Buban

THULE PHILIPPINES GETS MORE ACCESSIBLE with the opening of its second showroom located on Pasong Tamo Extension (2308 Natividad Bldg.), Makati City.

According to Thule Philippines president Erwin Versoza, the Makati branch will complement the one located at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Roosevelt Street in West Greenhills, San Juan.

"We want more people to experience the world's leading brand in load carrier systems, which offers a variety of rooftop boxes, roof rails, bike carriers (as well as snow chains and trailers) for all major car makes and models,"

says Versoza.

He assures that every Thule roof rack system is original equipment manufacturer (OEM) certified and guaranteed to be a perfect fit.

"All Thule products are designed for easy fit and load, reliable and have met the requirements of several international safety standards. Our products allow sports enthusiasts and active families and individuals to transport their equipment by car (no need for trailer or extra vehicle) when they practice their recreational and professional activities," reveals Versoza.

He reminds that interested buyers wanting to find out which Thule product best matches their vehicles may visit Thule Matchmaker at www.thule.com.

Korean not Sino

OOPS, SORRY. THE TITLE OF OUR BANNER story last week should have appeared "Korean-Japanese 'car wars' to intensify in RP arena."

We all need mentors

WE HAVE ALL HEARD THE DISCUSSION about human behavior being either a function of nature or nurture. Experts in psychology request us to consider that our skills, wants, likes and dislikes are possibly innate or perhaps installed. Rationally, a distinct line can be drawn between the two but common sense dictates the notion that natural capacity is often only sharpened by exposure to stimuli.

As a small child, my world was practically a garage. Cars were around, not in any sort of volume that would connote excess and extravagance, but in a way that one could not help but be captivated. Born of a true petrol head, many will think that I was purpose built for a personal passion for the automotive—my genes must surely resemble the helical pattern of gasoline at the molecular level.

It is easy to gush lyrical about this topic, but the truth is a lot less poetic. Many times, I wanted to convince myself that I was born for something else.

Early exposure

It is only through hindsight that I see my early exposure to cars as being quite moving and rather absolute. Many will claim to have tooled and wrenched at an absurdly early age, trying to inject an image of prodigy or "slight savant" in their automotive curriculum vitae.

I, on the other hand, had to learn everything from the common "clean slate" that the standard issue human being must begin with. Difficulty in learning the how's, why's and wherefores of the car had to be overcome. Starting at a rather late age also compounded the complexity of understanding the automobile. Nature seemed to have left out my fair

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma



share in the human race's collective mechanical skills basket.

A mentor, a guide

One very important aspect helped overcome the obstacles of automotive education. I had a mentor, a guide if you will, into the world of the car. In effect, the argument is now being made for the nurture side of human development.

Lacking any sort of natural mechanical skill, it is by sheer willful tutelage that I have any sort of understanding about the inner intricacies of the automobile. I am what I am today because of the concerted effort of a single person.

The method to my instruction is one for the books. Obviously seeing that the student lacked the patience and the perception to succeed in "practical mechanics," a second approach was taken to kick start my fervor for the automobile.

Driving foundation

Fortunately, my attention was steered toward the discipline of driving. By an age too early to admit in public, I had been made to drive everything from an aluminum panel delivery van, all the way to a W123 240d Merc.

Every time an opportunity presented itself to put my rear end in the driver seat of an unfamiliar vehicle, I took it with the full blessing and approval of my mentor.

The greatest thing this instilled

in my driving foundation is confidence. The other skills that this activity imparted, the ones that I display to this day, are disputable and are often bested by those that have the true natural talent for vehicular operation.

Yet the ability to assuredly jump into anything with pedals and steering wheel is something I am truly grateful for. You can say that this is something that is somewhat essential in the efforts of a motoring columnist.

Having been struck so fundamentally square by the driving bug, it was now but inevitable that a greater effort had to be made to impart an understanding of the mechanical side of equation. I eventually liberated my first engine block from its cylinder head and valve train—more than a decade after I started driving.

This gap points to nothing more than the dogged nature that my mentor took with me. My skills package then began to round out and this is something that I work to improve on, to this very day.

Simple thanks

So, where is this all headed then? These autobiographical mumbblings of a motoring columnist must read as a rant to most—surely just a self-serving public confession to ease some sort of primordial remorse or issues with self-worth. Maybe this is the case.

It could also be possible that I just really want to thank the person who got me started on my automotive journey. After years of benefiting from the shared knowledge, wisdom and experience, I think the spotlight is due elsewhere this time. A simple thanks to my father, for the drive and the understanding.

Interschool kartfest registration set at UP and Assumption

TUASON RACING SCHOOL (TRS), the country's first professional learning institution for racing, and Aiesec is now holding a registration for the AMP Interschool Kartfest 2005—a competition wherein students can represent their school in the sport of karting. The registration will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Oct. 1 on the campuses of University of the Philippines

and Assumption College.

The AMP Interschool Kartfest 2005, which is sponsored by Addict Mobile Prepaid (AMP), Petron Treats, Petron Blaze, San Miguel Strong Ice, Bosch, Pen-shoppe, Oakley, MTV, C Magazine, Brothers Burger, Magic 89.9, Ipod, Epson, Gshock and Speedzone, is for the benefit of Mabuhay Deseret Foundation.

The kartfest is open to any male or fe-

male student, aged 15-25 years with a valid school ID. Minors must submit a duly accomplished registration form and waiver with their parents' or guardian's signature. Registration will be final, non-refundable and nontransferable.

For a minimum entry fee of P550, which includes an AMP Prepaid SIM, participants will be given a chance to undergo the TRS basic karting clinic at the Manila Speed-

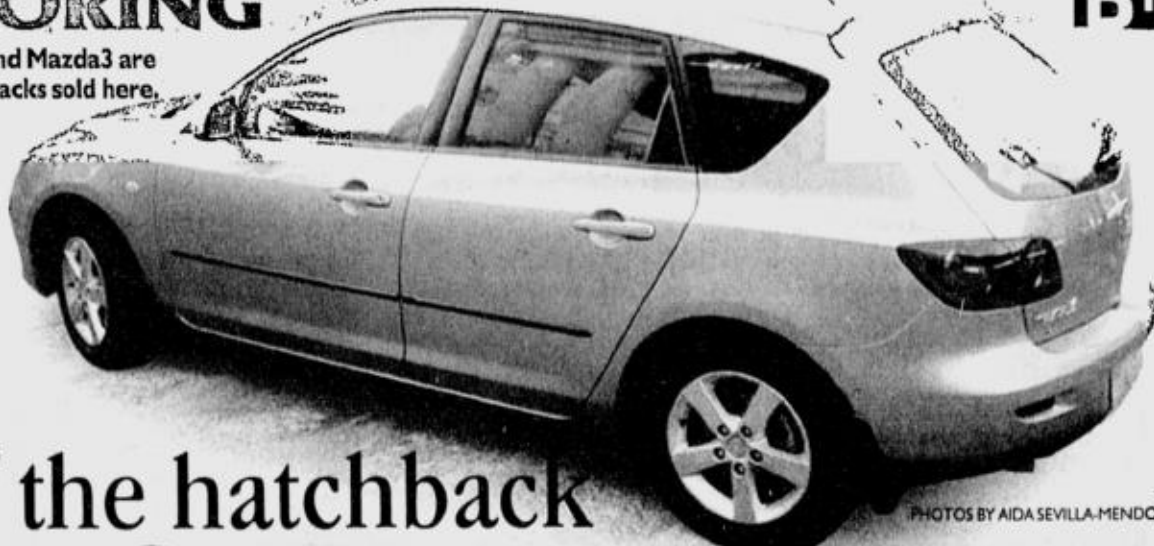
zone in the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Four to eight drivers are needed to complete each endurance team, which must be capable of driving for two hours straight.

The team with the most number of laps in the Endurance Race will win P30,000 in cash plus trophies and prizes, while the Individual Sprint Race winner will take home P10,000 in cash plus trophies and other prizes. Students will undergo quali-

fying rounds after the clinic to determine who will represent their respective schools in the Interschool Finals on Nov. 12 also at the Manila Speedzone.

For more information please see posters or print ads, call 0920-9282682, call 635-2587 and 747-2378; e-mail TRS at info@tuasonracing.com, text Kartfest to 216 or visit the TRS web site at www.tuasonracing.com.

THE HONDA Jazz and Mazda3 are two of the 11 hatchbacks sold here.



PHOTOS BY AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

The return of the hatchback

THE FORD GROUP MUST BE A HAPPY bunch these days, what with the Mazda3 reportedly pacing sales in the lucrative 1.6-liter to 2.0-liter passenger car segment. What puzzles me is why the Mazda3 hatchback, which looks as snazzy as the BMW 1, isn't selling as well as the Mazda3 four-door sedan.

Is it because we are again aping the Americans, our former colonizers, in our car-buying habits? Just as many of us go for huge, gas-guzzling, status symbol SUVs the way Americans do, we also may not relish the thought of driving around in a small hatchback tagged as an entry-level or low-budget car.

Tracing the history of the hatchback may give us a clue to its limited local market appeal. Earlier this year, Tom Murphy of Ward's Auto World wrote that the first hatchback came out on April 1, 1970, when American Motors Corp. launched the Gremlin. AMC thus beat General Motors and Ford in the race to produce a subcompact at a time when the oil crunch was attracting Americans car buyers to small imports. The Ford Pinto and Chevy Vega

were introduced months later, in September.

Popular

On the other hand, Volkswagen has reason to claim the credit of popularizing the hatchback in the United States when it began selling the VW Golf (then known as the Rabbit) in 1974. Designed by Giorgetto Giugiaro of the Italdesign studio, the VW Rabbit was the first mass production car to have a hatchback body, transverse straight-4 engine, front-wheel drive and room for five passengers. It was patterned after the revolutionary Mini of the British Motor Corp.

A word about the Mini: in 1959, before Sir Alec Issigonis conceptualized the transverse-mounted front engine and front-wheel-drive little car that could seat four, all cars had longitudinally mounted engines in front driving the rear wheels, a design that restricted interior space. The Mini became the template for almost all small cars today and made obsolete the rear engine-mounted VW Beetle.

The demise of the old Beetle gave way to the VW Rabbit, which in 1984 was re-

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



named as the Golf. Although the Fiat 128-3P of the early 1970s was really the first with a hatchback design, the Golf was the first to succeed in the mass market and it, not the Fiat, was widely copied. In 1976, the Golf was named Car of the Year by Wheels magazine.

Hot hatch

Meanwhile, before all this, John Cooper, the 1959-1960 Formula 1 champion who was a friend of Issigonis, collaborated with him to produce the sportier Mini Cooper in 1962. This led to the Cooper "S" which stole the European Rally Championship title from Porsche in 1965. Together with the Golf GTi, the Mini Cooper created a whole new genre of performance car: the hot hatch.

However, hatchbacks faded away with-

in two decades in the United States because of spotty reliability, rattles not experienced in a conventional 4-door sedan, leaking liftgates, rusting body panels, cheap interiors and warnings from consumer advocates that the gas tank may explode on impact. By the 1990s, Murphy says, few Americans wanted the little econoboxes.

But the hatchback was sure to make a comeback because of its versatility, fuel economy, roominess and sporty appeal. Improved aerodynamic styling would give the hatchback a sportier look; its low center of gravity and extra wide wheelbase provide superb handling and roadholding. Plus decent cargo room and a liftgate that functions just like an SUV.

Comeback

Now, because of the oil crisis, the hatchback—with better build quality—is making a comeback. Murphy notes that in the last four years, GM introduced seven new hatchbacks including the Pontiac Vibe, Chevy Malibu Maxx and Suzuki Reno. Since 2001, Toyota's Lexus brand has been selling the 5-door IS 300 SportCross and

last summer, Audi AG began selling its A3 hatchback in the United States.

In Europe, aside from the VW Golf, the BMW 1 and the new Mini, car buyers can choose from a fleet of hatchbacks bearing the badges of Chevrolet (replacing Daewoo), Citroen, Daihatsu, Fiat, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Opel, Peugeot, Renault, Saab, Seat, Skoda, Suzuki, Toyota and Vauxhall. Aside from those previously mentioned, the other 4-door hatchbacks in the US market are the Chevrolet Aveo, Ford Focus, Hyundai Elantra, Kia Spectra, Mazda3 and Mazda5, Toyota Matrix, Saab 9-2x, Scion xA and xB, Suzuki Aerio and Toyota Prius hybrid. Over here, there are the Audi A3, BMW 1 Series, Chevrolet Aveo, Honda Jazz, Hyundai Getz, Hyundai Matrix, Kia Rio and Kia Picanto, Mazda3, Peugeot 206 and Peugeot 307.

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: First the engagement ring, then the wedding ring, then the suffering.

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.

Diesel fuel out soon?

I MET A FRIEND RECENTLY and he told me diesel fuel would soon be a thing of the past.

I was stunned.

How could that happen?

"A new technology in the oil world will do away with diesel," he said. "I was surprised myself when it was first brought to my attention."

When will it happen?

"In the near future," he said. "Let's have lunch and I will discuss it with you in detail."

Isuzu came to mind when I heard that. As we all know, Isuzu produces only engines that are diesel-fed.

GM, the largest car manufacturer in the world, has recognized Isuzu as the chief authority on diesel engines and, to prove that, GM had forged a partnership with Isuzu to oversee diesel engine development in the entire GM Group.

With diesel engines making long strides in terms of quality, performance, efficiency and environment-friendliness, they have become popular in many parts of the globe, particularly in Europe. Hence, Isuzu has set up a global diesel engine supply network that covers Europe, North America, Japan and other parts of Asia. It can be said that no other diesel manufacturer in the world has the global production and sales network that Isuzu has.

Filipinos have been benefiting all these years from Isuzu's diesel-engine technology, particularly with the Crosswind, D-Max, Alterra and the F- and N-Series trucks. Even marine and transport industries can now also take advantage of powerful, clean, reliable and fuel-efficient Isuzu diesel engines.

That's why I can't wait to have that lunch with my friend and clear matters with him regarding the news that diesel fuel will soon be erased from the face of the Earth.

It's simply unbelievable, if not totally unthinkable.

Add my friend's grim forecast to fears of fuel prices getting out of hand, it's time our

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

authorities give top priority to the construction of bike lanes in the metropolis. Side by side with this is the establishment of foot paths.

You know why?

Biking to our places of work, if we can, will not only help us offset the impact of high cost of living caused by rising fuel prices, it will likewise make us healthy. Walking too. Their health benefits are such that either of the two can make us live to a hundred and five if we only know how to stay alive.

There will come a time when it's even better to walk than bike. With walking, you spend virtually nothing. All you need is a pair of shoes. Plus of course a pair of good legs. With a bike, you will at least need oil for bolts and chain.

Have you seen those cars falling in line in the wake of gas shortages in the United States, particularly in typhoon-hit Louisiana and Texas?

Over there, it now takes a motorist at least three hours before he/she can have his/her tank filled to the brim.

It's not happening here. Nyet.

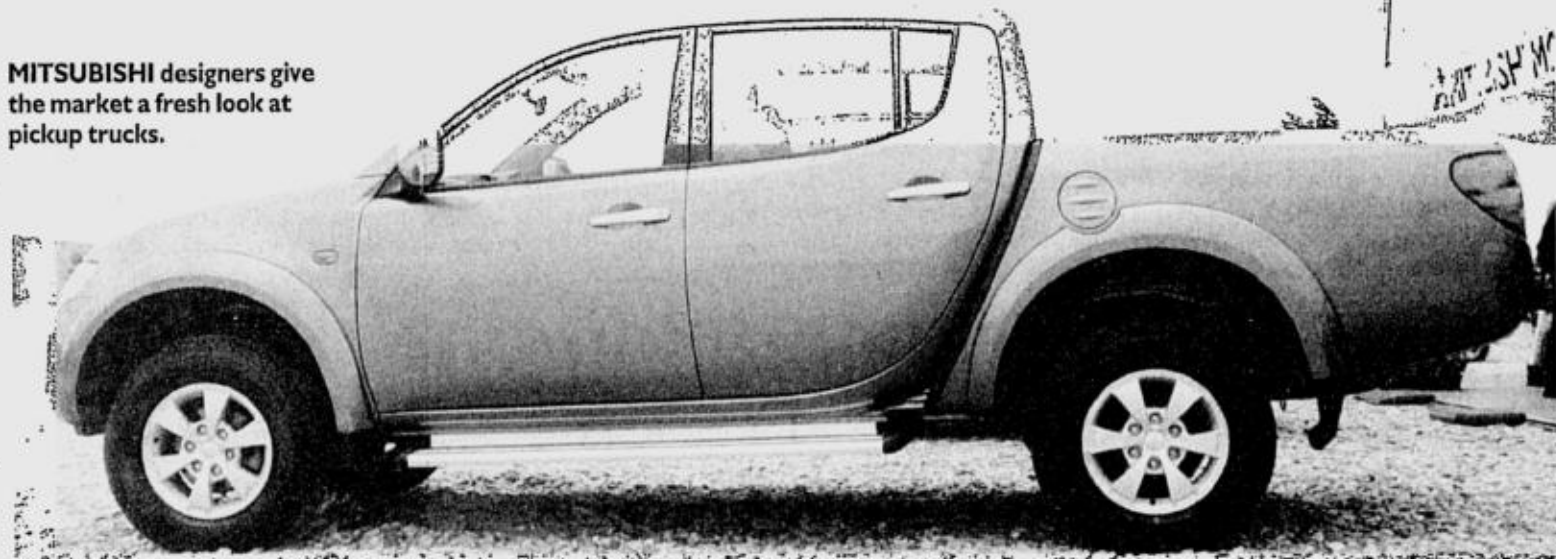
But with gasoline prices rocketing sky-high as fast as a wink, there could be only one option left for us to survive the city, if not life itself: biking, if not walking.

BRAVO VOLVO! In a recent test conducted by the Department of Energy among 43 vehicles (10 from six car manufacturers), the Volvo S60 earned top results with 12.7 km per liter consumption for its 2.0L engine, while the Volvo S60 T5 chalked up 10.3 km a liter. Cheers to that and here's to Albert, Lyn and Loi, the Volvo trio with a heart for eternal excellence!

QUOTE ME. Correct tire pressure immensely helps regulate fuel consumption.

E-mail: menju@pldt-fsl.net

MITSUBISHI designers give the market a fresh look at pickup trucks.



Mitsubishi Thailand unveils Triton, all-new pickup truck

By Charles E. Buban

WHAT DOES A RIGHT-HANDED pickup truck unveiling in Thailand have to do with us here in the Philippines? A lot, actually.

Thailand, pick-up truck's second-largest producer of pick-up trucks (after the United States), is also a global production base for pickups for the world's major car manufacturers, including Mitsubishi.

So when Mitsubishi Motors (Thailand) Co. unveiled its latest pickup truck model that replaces the current L200 Strada, the region as well as the rest of world are awaiting the introduction of Triton.

The 1-tonner Triton is assembled in Laem Chabang, Thailand and by next year, Mitsubishi will start shipping the pickup to countries and regions (over 140), and thus, is expected to play a major role in terms of the company's global market strategy and of achieving its so-called Mitsubishi Motors Revitalization Plan.

Business plan

Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp., announced last January, this business plan that charts its path until March 2008 and which provides measures for stabilizing the company's operations and improving the stability and soundness of its financial standing for the mid- and long-term.

Included in the plan is to aggressively introduce new models in all its market, hence the Triton unveiling.

"The Triton has been developed as a global strategic model to fully satisfy our customers' needs in terms of pickup economy, durability and reliability; offer levels of quality that fur-

ther raise and consolidate the standing of the Mitsubishi brand on a global scale; as well as accommodate the needs of a broad market base not limited to commercial use," enumerates Mitsubishi Motors (Thailand) president Hisayoshi Kumai.

Concerted efforts

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines' brand advertising supervisor Arlan Antonio Reyes Jr. agrees that Mitsubishi has made concerted efforts over recent years to strengthen the business base and boost the competitiveness of its operations in Thailand.

"Thailand constitutes both a major Asean bloc market for Mitsubishi in its global strategy and a production and export hub for supplying 1-ton pickup trucks to world markets, including the Philippines.

With the Triton, Mitsubishi hopes to eliminate the commonly held image of pickup trucks as being a vehicle designed purely for commercial use.

Original and stylish

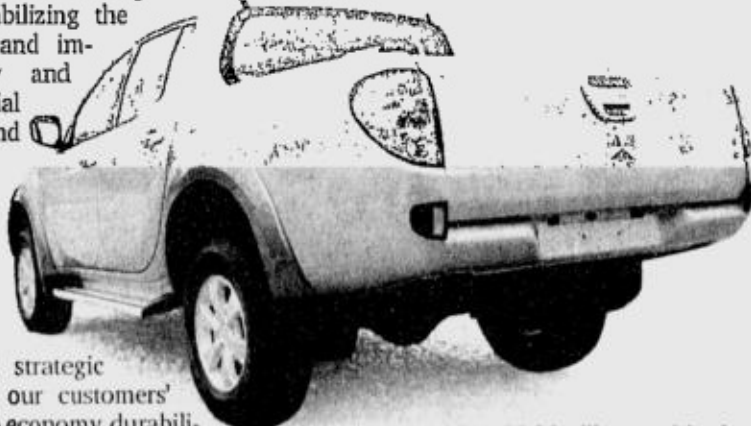
"The Triton features an original and stylish design (both exterior and interior) that adds sporty and tough image, a class-leading cabin

space as well as a suspension and interior appointments that achieve sedan levels of comfort and ride," describes Kumai.

The Triton is powered by a newly developed common rail direct injection diesel engine that is available in several variants—power output ranging from a modest 116 horsepower to a class-leading 165 hp—low in consumption, emits cleaner emissions and operates more quietly.

Triton's other top features include its Dakar Rally-honed four-wheel-drive system (Mitsubishi's trademark Super Select 4-Wheel Drive system) that delivers outstanding all-surface performance (Triton's top variant is even equipped with an Electronic Stability Program, Traction Control and a 17-inch alloy wheels, for added driving stability and performance).

"Triton's attractive design and go-anywhere character put this next-generation pickup ahead of the market in all aspects of performance and MMPC can't wait to bringing it to our shores," says Reyes.



BY NEXT year, Mitsubishi will start shipping the Triton to the rest of the world.

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Crude oil prices ease in world trade

SINGAPORE—CRUDE OIL PRICES eased Tuesday but natural gas prices rose as traders gauged mixed reports coming out of Texas on the extent of damage to oil and gas facilities from Hurricane Rita.

While Rita inflicted less damage than expected, all crude output in the Gulf of Mexico was still shut down and at least 16 refineries in Texas were closed after the storm blew through over the weekend, according to the US Department of Energy.

Concerns that the industry might face lengthy production stoppages sent the benchmark crude oil futures contract as high as US\$66.17 a barrel in early electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Mid-afternoon in Singapore, it fell to US\$65.77 a barrel, down 5 cents from its close Monday in New York.

Nymex crude rose US\$1.63 to settle at US\$65.82 a barrel in New York Monday after US President George W. Bush said it was

unclear how much oil production would be lost from Rita.

Early estimates were that Hurricane Rita will cost US refiners about 800,000 barrels a day in capacity, on top of a drop of about 900,000 barrels a day because of Hurricane Katrina, which hit a month ago. Market-watcher Energyintel put the number of lost barrels from Rita even higher.

Natural gas jumped 11 cents to US\$12.55 per 1,000 cubic feet, while heating oil rose by 1 cent to US\$2.0725 a gallon, gasoline gained 3 cents to US\$2.16 a gallon.

Oil companies were still trying to assess the extent of damage at their refineries in the Houston area, the heart of US petroleum production.

In Japan, officials yesterday said it would form top-level panels to find measures to help sectors hurt by expensive crude oil. Japan is the world's third-largest oil consumer after the United States and China. AP



NEW SMART PHONE

Bill Gates, chair and chief software architect of Microsoft Corp., announces an alliance with Palm and Verizon producing a new TREO smart phone in San Francisco, California. The new TREO smart phone will feature a full-featured mobile phone combining e-mail, messaging, web access and organizational software. It will be available in the beginning of 2006. AFP

China banks seen at risk in economic reforms

BEIJING—WHILE CHINA DEREGULATES its huge and inefficient banking sector ahead of opening its doors to further foreign competition, regulators and bankers see rising uncertainties and risks associated with the moves.

"Banks are facing greater business risks and uncertainty," said Wang Zhaoxing, assistant chair of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, at a conference on financial risk on Tuesday. "It's a pressing task to improve risk management and competitiveness of domestic banks."

Wang said the uncertainties had arisen due to expanded limits on yuan lending rates and reforms of the exchange rate mechanism.

"Fluctuations of interest rates and exchange rates create market opportunities, but also bring

about new uncertainties," said Guo Shuqing, chair of the China Construction Bank, the country's number-three lender.

China says it will gradually make the yuan more flexible, though it has not specified a time-frame. In July it dropped the yuan's peg against the US dollar, though since then the exchange rate has moved very little by international standards.

Despite the risks, foreign financial institutions are investing billions in Chinese banks and insurers, lured by \$1.5 trillion in savings and the market potential of the world's fastest-growing major economy.

To meet World Trade Organization commitments, China must open its financial sector further to foreign competition by the end of 2006. Reuters

Change in US bankruptcy law spurs surge in filings

CHICAGO—FILE BANKRUPTCY now—before the law changes!

That's the message—or exhortation—that attorneys are making across the United States, in TV commercials, print ads and mailings, urging Americans to seek bankruptcy court protection before a new law makes it harder for them to walk away from their debts.

Debtors are responding.

Counting down toward the Oct. 17 effective date for the biggest reform in US bankruptcy law in a generation, personal bankruptcy filings have jumped in September to the highest on record. Filings averaged more than 9,000 per day, up roughly 50 percent from last year's average daily volume, during the first

two weeks of September.

The number is expected to keep climbing, reflecting a growing sense of urgency as the deadline nears.

Attorney Melvin James Kaplan, who runs a consumer bankruptcy practice in Chicago, hasn't seen a rush this big in his 48 years in the business. The volume of calls to his office has been increasing all month and tripled in the past two weeks.

"It's just getting insane," Kaplan said. "The information has been out there for months. I guess people are just waiting until the last minute."

The rush is on in every region and most states, based on data compiled for The Associated Press by Lundquist Consulting Inc., a Burlingame, California-

based financial research firm.

The intensified interest comes from the bankruptcy law makeover signed by President George W. Bush on April 20, a 501-page bill that bears the markings of the Republican-dominated Congress that passed it after an eight-year campaign headed by the banking, credit card and retailing industries.

Among the most noteworthy of the changes are new limitations on filing for personal bankruptcy, including barring those with above-average income from Chapter 7—where debts can be wiped out entirely—except under special circumstances.

Those deemed by a "means

test" to have at least \$100 a month left over after paying certain debts and expenses will have to file a 5-year repayment plan under the more restrictive Chapter 13 instead, under which a judge orders a repayment plan.

People also will be required to get professional credit counseling before being allowed to file.

Proponents welcome what they say is a long-needed crackdown on those who rack up credit card debts recklessly only to shed them in Chapter 7. They maintain that abuse of the bankruptcy process results in higher interest rates for everyone else, a "tax" averaging \$400 per family per year. AP

US Fed worried over rising inflation risks

CHICAGO—TOP POLICY MAKERS AT THE US Federal Reserve voiced growing concern on Monday that inflation pressures are building, giving the dollar a boost as they signaled the central bank will push interest rates higher.

Chicago Federal Reserve President Michael Moskow and Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City President Thomas Hoenig, speaking at separate events, both said the US economy looked sound despite the damage from hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

But they also spoke of the need to keep inflation at bay.

Currency traders took this as a sign the Fed will keep tightening policy, sending the dollar to a two-month high against the yen.

The Fed has two more rate-setting meetings this year and the market expects a rate rise from at least one, and possibly both.

Consumer prices in August were up 3.6 percent from a year earlier and economists say that additional rises in energy costs could push the September reading above 4.0 percent.

The Fed also has a new element to consider: the additional federal spending expected to help rebuild hurricane-damaged areas of the Gulf Coast.

Hoenig said the US economy can shake off the damage of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Fed must focus on its primary mission of keeping inflation in check. Reuters

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The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM), is seeking for **Family Planning Coordinators** for the following areas: Baguio, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Batangas, Rizal, Iloilo, Cebu, Leyte, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga City, Misamis Oriental/CDO, Agusan Del Norte/Butuan City and Socksargen.

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Qualifications:

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- Work experience includes positions requiring leadership skills, as well as integrative and strategic thinking
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Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter (indicating the preferred project area) and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph or send to:

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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006	Joel M. Eusebio	1
007	Kurosaka Plating Co. Ltd.	91,700
008	Ketsuke Miyazawa	2,500
009	Emiko Chigusa	250
010	Setsuko Urakami	250
011	Takaaki Minami	250
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Fertility regional congress

THE INTERNATIONAL Federation of Fertility Society (IFFS) in partnership with the Philippine Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (PSREI) will conduct two scientific presentation, "New Horizons in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and Contraception" on October 6-7 at the Victory Laboratory, Makati City / Center for Reproductive Medicine, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, on October 8-9, EDSSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City, respectively.

International luminaries in the field of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility led by Prof. Ian Cooke, Prof. Martha Hickey, Harvard Academician, Dr. Michel Camus, president of the Belgian Society for Reproductive Medicine and Dr. Colin Howles, researcher and author, will complement the local faculty in updating indigenous and international attendance in the state-of-the-art management of infertility and fertility control.

The joint undertakings are spearheaded by Dr. Santiago A. del Rosario, PSREI president, other incumbent officers and former presidents led by Dr. Greg. Pastorfide, Secretary-General of the Regional Congress and Dr. Florante Gonzaga, Chair of the Scientific Committee, with the active assistance of IFFS, Westmont Pharmaceuticals, Inc. through Jerry Esquivel, operating vice president Cluster Head of United Laboratories and Mrs. Remedios Balajadia, CME Coordinator.



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The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

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Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on September 29, 2005 at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 28, 2005)

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MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Geothermal Complex consisting of the 275 MW Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant located in Tiwi, Albay and the 425.73 MW MakBan Geothermal Power Plant located in Laguna and Batangas Provinces

(collectively, the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2005 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. \$ 1,000.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 17, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from October 14, 2005 until October 17, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	October 3 - December 5, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	October 21, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	To be announced to interested Bidders at a later date by PSALM

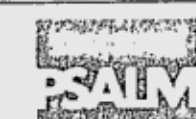
References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Nine Million U.S. Dollars (US\$ 9,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Interested parties and bidders are required to comply with Philippine law at all times. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--September 27, 28 & 29, 2005)



POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

Hydroelectric Power Complex consisting of the 100 MW Pantabangan Hydroelectric Power Plant and the 12 MW Masiway Hydroelectric Power Plant both located at Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija

(collectively, the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 12, 2005 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of one thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. \$ 1,000.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from October 12, 2005 until October 17, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	October 3 - November 25, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	October 19, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM	To be announced to interested Bidders at a later date by PSALM

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to two million U.S. Dollars (US\$ 2,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Interested parties and bidders are required to comply with Philippine law at all times. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--September 27, 28 & 29, 2005)

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"For God
 so loved
 the world,
 that He
 gave His
 only
 begotten
 Son, that
 whoever
 believes
 in Him
 shall not
 perish but
 have
 everlasting
 life."

John 3:16

In Loving Memory

On the 2nd Death Anniversary of

**Josefa dela
 Rama Alunan**

September 29, 2005

Holy Masses will be offered in her memory
on September 29, 2005 at the following churches:

Santuario De San Jose Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.	7:15 a.m.
San Miguel Pro-Cathedral Gen. Solano, San Miguel, Manila	7:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows Parish F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City	6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m.
Don Bosco Makati Pasay Road, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
Saint Andrew Parish Bel-Air, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church Magallanes Village, City of Makati	6:00 p.m.
St. Sebastian Cathedral Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Shrine Bacolod City	6:00 a.m.
San Antonio Parish Bacolod City	7:00 a.m.
Mary Queen of Peace Bacolod City	5:30 p.m.
Oratory of St. Nicolas of Tolentine Bacolod City	6:00 p.m.

Her family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die.
 God made us for this very reason and He has given us
 the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again".
 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Our Dearly Beloved

ESMERALDO NICOLAS B. LAPUS

Son of Bartolome and Juliana Lapus

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 26, 2005
 at the age of 76.

His wife **Ida**, loving children **Rachel, Irene, Pot & Che, Beck & Carissa, Bart, Tere & Kiko**; grandchild **Nikki**; brothers & sisters **Catalina, Rudy (+), Sr. Irene, Luz (+), Sr. Ellen (+), Bart, Fr. Louis, Ted, Mannie & Charlie**, nephews, nieces & other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City.

Interment will be on September 30, 2005 at the Evergreen Memorial Garden,
 Pasig City after the 3:00 PM Mass.

In Loving Memory

On the Fifth Death Anniversary of

KATHERINE R. RODRIGUEZ
 "Jo-Jo"

July 28, 1960 – September 28, 2005

Masses will be offered today
at the following Churches:

St. James Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	6:30 pm
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City	6:00 am, 12:15 pm, & 6:00 pm
Santuario De San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 am, 7:30 am, 12:00 nn & 6:00 pm
San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel, New York City, NY	12:00 nn
St. Andrew's Church, Daly City, California	9:00 pm
St. Brendan, Los Angeles, California	6:30 pm
St. Victor, West Hollywood, California	6:30 pm

Rest victor, sleep and rest
you have given your very best...

PACITA VALLEJO VDA. DE MENCHACA
 QEPD

1913 – 2005

FALLECIO EL 26 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2005.

SUS DESCONSOLADOS HIJOS ANTONIO Y MAGDALENA
 SARTE MENCHACA

NIETOS SOFIA Y ANTON

Y DEMAS SOBRINOS Y SOBRINOS-NIETOS RUEGAN AL LECTOR
 UNA ORACION POR SU ALMA

LA FINADA SE HALLA EN EL SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE,
 GREENHILLS, EL ENTIERRO TENDRA LUGAR EL
 PROXIMO VIERNES, 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2005
 DESPUES DE LA MISA DE A LAS NUEVE DE LA MAÑANA

I am
 the way,
 the
 truth
 and the
 life. No
 one
 comes
 to the
 Father
 except
 through
 Me.

John 14:6

FRANCIS F. HOW

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 25, 2005
 at the age of 54.

His wife **Telly**; sons **Patrick, Paul** and **Greg**; mother
Elizabeth; sisters and brothers-in-law **Pauline,**
Marie and **Herbert Li, Janie** and **Goran Zlokapa,**
 and **Denise**; nephews and nieces; relatives and
 friends request the faithful for their prayers.

His body was cremated on September 26, 2005.
 A Memorial Mass will be held at 8 p.m. today,
 September 28, 2005, at the Mary the Queen Parish
 Hall in San Juan.

Novenas will be held after the 6:00 p.m. Mass at
 Mary the Queen on September 29 and 30, and at the
 family residence on October 1, 2, and 3 at 6:00 p.m.

"In my father's house are many rooms. I'm going to prepare a place for
 you. I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also
 be where I am."

John 14:23

INGERSOL A. ZARATE

Now peacefully rests in the Grace of our Lord
 on Sept. 26, 2005 at the age of 51.

His loving father, **Atty. Aniano G. Zarate**; brothers and sisters **Claire, Nick,**
Third, Emily, Betty, Robert, Annabelle, Melanie and **Cyril**; his daughter,
Pauline; very close family friends, **Marife, Danilo, Roy**; his relatives and
 other friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his
 soul.

His body now lies at the Cattleja Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside
 Manila Memorial Park) and will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on Wednesday
 morning for interment on Saturday morning October 1, 2005.

Our Dearly Beloved

CELSO ARAGON MODINA

(September 25, 1941 - September 26, 2005)

Peacefully joined our Lord
 on September 26, 2005 at the age of 64.

His loving wife **Ricky**, children **Rick & Maritess**
Modina, Tess & Noli Vinluan, grandchildren **Erika**
 and **Thea**, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends
 request the pious readers to pray for the eternal
 repose of his soul.

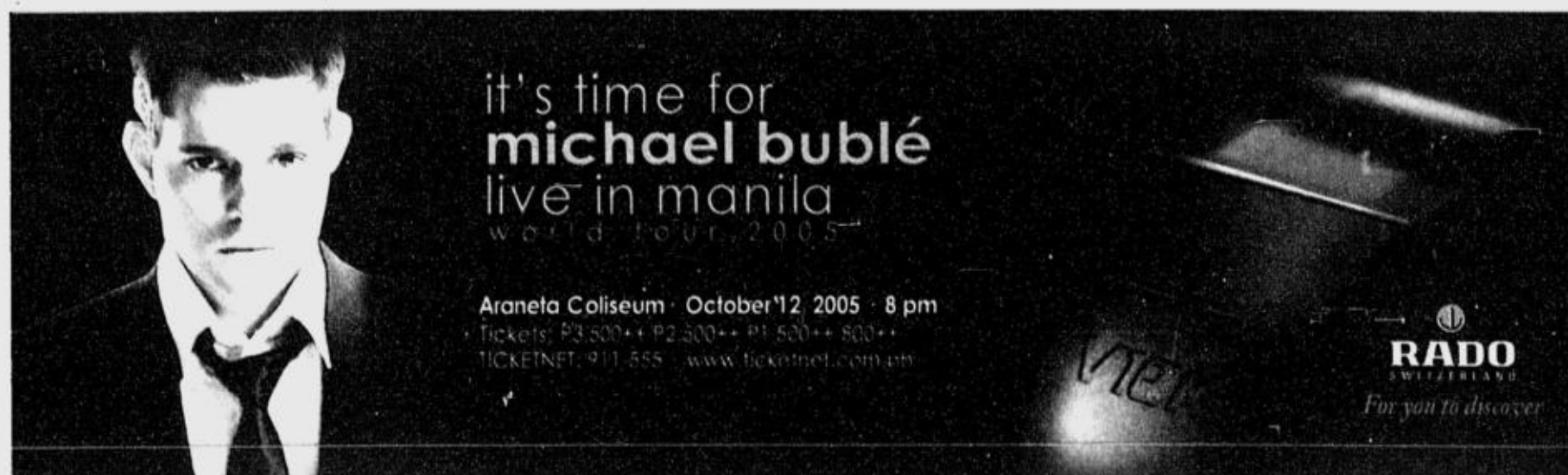
His remains lie in state at Baltazar Chapel, La
 Funeraria Paz-Sucat Inc. (inside Manila Memorial
 Park) Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 01, 2005
 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat,
 Parañaque City after the 9:00 Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it,
 and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

BUSINESS



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BSP turns to loan market for \$500M

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS seeking \$500 million through a syndicated loan with a maturity of between three and five years to refinance debts falling due in November, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said.

Guinigundo said that while the BSP was facing \$800 million in commercial requirements due this November, it would raise only \$500 million from the loan market because the remaining amount could be covered by the existing foreign exchange build-up.

He said the BSP could pay off the rest with foreign exchange purchases in the past, such as from the open market as well as proceeds from official development assistance and other external borrowings tapped by the national government earlier this year.

Sources from the banking industry said the BSP had already requested proposals from a number of big lenders.

"We'll tap only \$500 million because the BSP's reserves level is quite robust," Guinigundo said.

Even with the remaining maturities for the year, he said the BSP could still end 2005 with a comfortable level of reserves at \$17-\$17.5 billion.

"We're doing the groundwork now," Guinigundo said, when asked about the timing of the fresh borrowing.

He said the proceeds, however, would likely come in by November.

Despite sufficient appetite for Philippine issues at the global market, the BSP has ruled out resorting to a bond float to avoid crowding out the market given the national government's own requirements.

"There was an agreement between the BSP and the national government that they'll try the bond market while the BSP will continue to concentrate on the loan market," Guinigundo said. *With a report from Reuters*

Meralco, PSALM, Napocor close to signing TSC

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. may finally agree to sign a transition supply contract (TSC) with the National Power Corp. and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) by the end of the month.

Ivanna Dela Peña, Meralco vice president and utility economics head, yesterday said that end-September was the "working deadline" for all parties involved in the TSC negotiation.

Napocor, PSALM and Meralco negotiators actually had a meeting with the Energy Regulatory Commission last Monday, she said, to exchange more information and inform the regulatory body of their progress.

"There were certain guidelines and simulations," Dela Peña told reporters. "Both parties continue to exchange data. Meralco and Napocor are going through transparent exchanges at the ERC."

Right now, Dela Peña said the main issue that Meralco, Napocor and PSALM were trying to iron out had to do with the procurement level that would be in effect once the contract is signed.

This would be the amount of power that Meralco would draw from Napocor plants up to the expiration of the contract a year after the declaration of retail competition and open access.

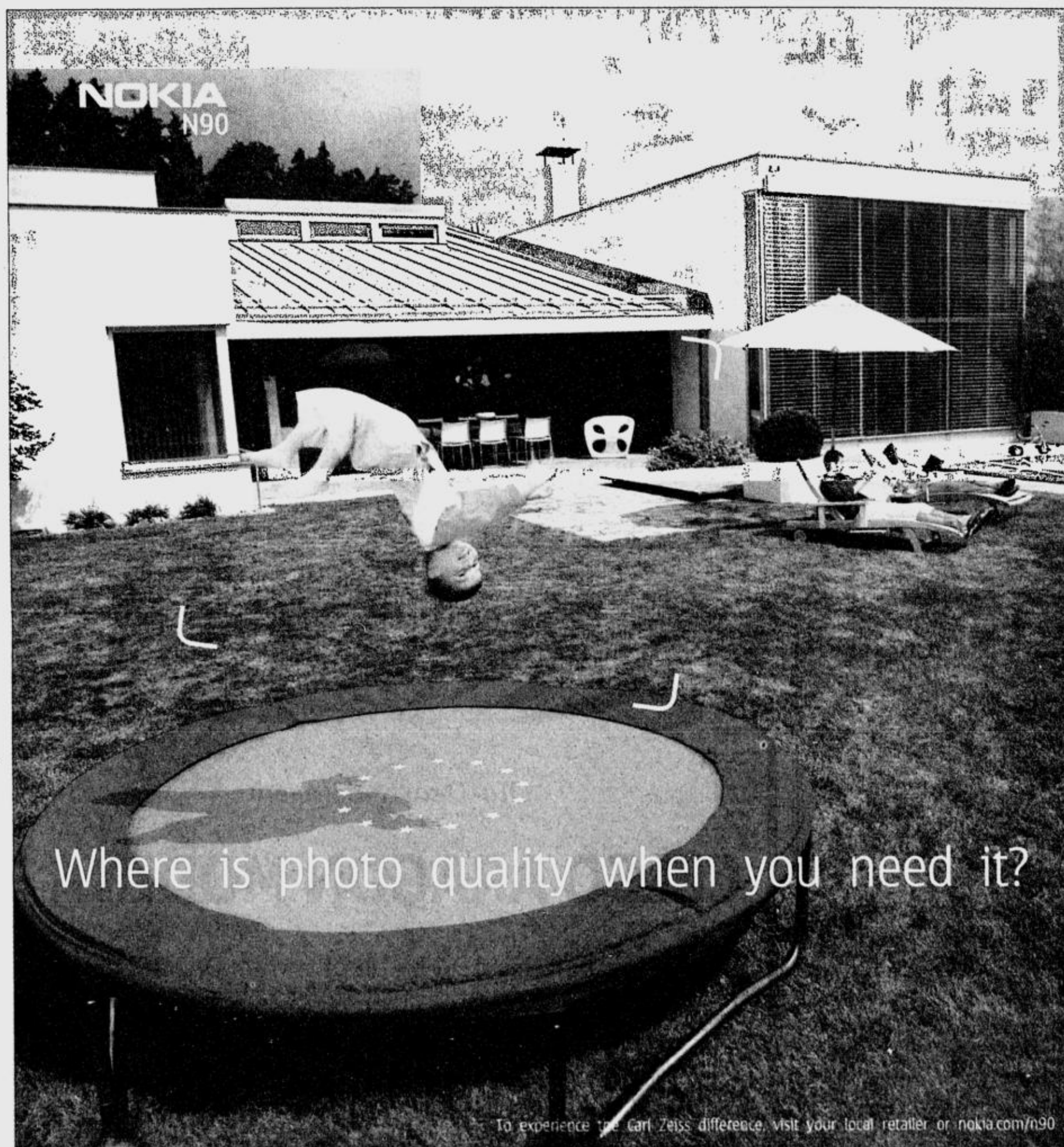
Dela Peña said current negotiations were only for a TSC between Meralco and Napocor and did not include a prospective long-term bilateral contract.

The signing of the TSC should take place in the next few weeks, maybe not before the end of the month as Napocor president Cyril Del Callar and Meralco president Jesus Francisco both left for India yesterday for a conference.

Under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), Napocor has to negotiate a TSC with each of its power distributor-customers in preparation for retail competition and open access in the distribution sector.

Among those that have already signed TSCs with Napocor and PSALM are the Aboitizes' Visayan Electric Co. and Davao Light and Power Co., as well as the Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co.

Del Callar had earlier committed that all ongoing negotiations for TSCs and other bilateral contracts with its distributor-customers would be concluded by October.



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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

LIFESTYLE

NOCTURNAL MANILA (Part 2)

Two weeks ago, 2bU! featured different places that keep their doors open 24 hours a day, in celebration of the nocturnal lifestyle.

We wrote about 24-hour Fast food chains, Napoletano's Pizza Italiano, The Westin Sports Club and Spa and Planet Infinity. This week, we have more

features to delight the insomniac in you.

If you're prone to late-night cravings, read our stories on Embassy Cafeteria and the other 24-hour restaurants we have listed for you. Heck, we'll even tell you what to order.

Find the best convenience stores with our review. Or, if you often

find yourself bored in the middle of the night, let our insomniac's radio guide tell you which stations can be the best refuge. And if that's not enough, 2bU!s Snoop Troop tracked down Manila's sleepless and asked them to spill their late-night secrets. Read about what they do in the middle of the night.

If you're not a night person, we also have articles for you. Check out young entrepreneurs who are out to make a mark in the local fashion scene, learn how you can help the local 'kapeng barako' industry, join HSBC's search for big-hearted volunteers and win Merrell shoes for your girl.

Graveyard radio

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

GOT INSOMNIA? TUNE IN to these stations.

RX 93.1

Show: Insomnia. Catch it on weekdays except Wednesdays from 2-6 a.m. and on weekends from midnight until 6 a.m.

DJ: DJ Jose

Listener's profile: "Mostly yuppies and students that are up late working, studying, partying, or just hanging out with friends," says DJ Jose.

What to expect: "We here at Rx 93.1 have a Monster Hit List of the most popular current songs based on the requests of the listeners which are tallied daily during The All Hit Daily Survey and weekly on The Countdown Top 7. From that list I have the option to play the songs in any order, what I feel flows best," says DJ Jose.

"Insomnia is not for those trying to fall asleep. Here we try to keep you up, alive, and moving so that the you can do what you are up to do."

Not your usual graveyard-shift program, Insomnia encourages interaction among its listeners. The show has "nightly topics" that range from silly to thought-provoking.

Joey 92.3

Shows: Night Rhythms—Mondays to Thursdays (9 p.m.-6 a.m.) and Sundays (2 a.m.-6 a.m.), Midnight Oasis—Mondays to Fridays (12 mn-12:15am), A Time to Chill—Fridays (9 p.m.-12mn), Beats Per Minute—Saturdays (12 mn-2 a.m.), Totally 80s—Saturdays (10:30 p.m.-12 mn)

DJ: No one, since everything is pre-programmed.

What to expect: Night Rhythms is an easy listening mix of pop jazz, '70s, '80s, '90s and current music. Midnight Oasis has a smooth 15-minute mix of "New Age" songs. A Time to Chill offers a variety of lounge and/or chill-out flavors.

BPM (Beats Per Minute) is a very upbeat club-cultured radio show. Totally '80s gives the best of the '80s music generation.

Remote control: Who gets to

choose the songs to play? Anton Ramos gets to pick the tunes for A Time to Chill, Carlo Ocampo for BPM, and the programming department for everything else.

Weird request: Someone asked if they could air a home radio shop-

ping program.

NU 107.5

DJ: DJ Jay takes on the reins from 10 p.m.-2 a.m., and Russ Davids fills in from 2-6 a.m.

What to expect: Tons and tons of the best modern rock without commercial interruption. There are 40-minute "Rockathons" every hour from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. the following day.

Perk: You'll get to hear the heavier stuff during the graveyard shift.

Hey Mr. DJ!: On weekends, listeners take total control of what gets played.



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2BU! RECOMMENDS

Midnight food fest

By Pam Pastor

SAY GOODBYE TO LATE-NIGHT hunger pangs with tasty treats from these eight food havens for insomniacs. Get your scissors and start clipping.

Kowloon House

Navigate to: 16 West Ave. Quezon City
The digits: 3723685 to 92
The hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week
What to expect: Late at night, only Kowloon's take-out window is open, but that's still reason to rejoice.

Go there for: Excellent siopao, siomai, mami noodles and our favorite chicken curry pie

Ziggurat

Navigate to: Sunnet Tower, Durban corner Burgos Street, Makati City
The digits: 8975179
The hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week

What to expect: Ziggurat, a Mediterranean restaurant, offers a relaxing atmosphere with plump cushions for seats, dim lighting and low tables. It's a great date place and also works as a last stop on a crazy night out with friends.
Go there for: great moussaka, chicken tikka, hummus and curry. Try the shisha pipes, too, if you're into that kind of thing.

Hap Chang Tea House

Navigate to: 561 Gen. Malvar St. corner Adriatico St. Malate Manila
The digits: 5251635

The hours: 24 hours a day except on Mondays when they close from 3-6 a.m.
What to expect: Hap Chang will make you feel as if you're dining in one of those small restaurants in Hong Kong, minus the night markets.
Go there for: Noodle soup, dim sum, fried rice and the soy chicken

Filling Station

Navigate to: 5012 P. Burgos St. Makati
The digits: 8972053
The hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week
What to expect: This '50s theme diner will transport you to a different time. Check out the old photographs, old radios and telephones, old records that have been transformed into napkin holders and the huge inflatable Spiderman on the ceiling. And if checking out the interiors is not enough entertainment, you can spend hours playing billiards, too.
Go there for: Great American food. Try the generous serving of milkshakes, the nachos, the pork chop, the pizza and different kinds of pasta and sandwiches.

North Park Next Door

Navigate to: 7876 Makati Ave. corner Dapo St. Makati City

Late-night hunger pangs? We've got the answers here

The digits: 8991893, 8903814
The hours: 24 hours a day, except on Sunday night when they close at 2 a.m.
What to expect: Relaxed dining, mixed crowd, good food
Go there for: The special noodles, the dim sum and the rice toppings

Aristocrat

Navigate to: 432 San Andres corner Roxas Blvd. Malate, Manila
The digits: 5223756, 5218138, 5347671
The hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week
What to expect: Already an icon among Filipino diners, Aristocrat offers Pinoy comfort food any time of the day.
Go there for: the famous chicken barbecue with java rice, crispy pata, chicken honey and bibingka.

Lola Ely's
Navigate to: Bambi corner Felix Huertas Street, Manila
The digits: 7119798
The hours: 24 hours

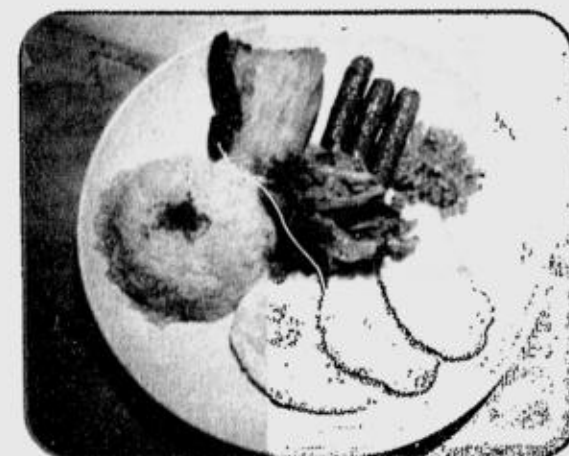
a day, seven days a week
What to expect: Lola Ely's is one of Manila's great secrets. Offering open-air dining for low, low prices, it has become a favorite of insomniacs, students pulling all-nighters and even celebrities. Forget the ambience, focus on the food.
Go there for: all kinds of "silog" meals. Aside from the typical tapsilog, tosilog and hotilog, try the chicksilog (chicken, garlic rice, egg), the embosilog (meatloaf, garlic rice, egg), all-masilog (crab omelette, garlic rice, egg), lnhawisilog (grilled pork, garlic rice, egg), malingsilog (Slices of Ma-ling, garlic rice and egg) and our favorite lechonsilog (lechon kawali, garlic rice, egg). The leche flan is pretty good, too.

Mister Kabab

Navigate to: Timog Ave. corner Quezon Ave. Quezon City
The hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week except on holidays
What to expect: Ultra relaxed dining. You can come in your shorts and flip flops and no one would bat an eyelash.
Go there for: The different kababs and the ox brain. Don't forget the garlic sauce.



AMERICAN Breakfast Super Combo



FILIPINO Breakfast Super Combo



BARBECUE

The cafeteria that never sleeps

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

AT LEAST NOT ON WEDNESDAYS, Fridays and Saturdays.

On these days, Embassy Cafeteria (located at The Fort Global City) stays open until 7 a.m. to cater to the after-midnight cravings of hungry night owls. The rest of the week, the restaurant closes its doors at 11 p.m.

Embassy Cafeteria, part of Manila's popular nightlife trinity that includes Embassy Cuisine and Embassy Super! Club, is the brainchild of four friends: Chef Fernando Aracama, Erik Cua, Jon Herrera and Tim Yap.

The concept behind the treats served in Cafeteria is simple. "It's no-nonsense food served in big servings that are meant for sharing," the owners say.

Chef Fernando, the man behind Uva's famous choc-nut ice cream which has since been copied and recopied, is the kitchen genius responsible for both Cafeteria and Cuisine's menu. With Cafeteria, he has successfully created comfort dishes that quell the appetite and offer great pleasure for your palate. With the mixture of American, Filipino, Mexican and other international cuisines, there's bound to be something to match your cravings at Cafeteria.

If you're in the mood for salad, try the Cafeteria Asian Style Chicken Salad (mixed asian greens, jicama, chives and crispy wonton skin tossed in a sweet and tangy sesame dressing topped with strips of deep fried chicken breast—P185) or the Barbecue Chicken Salad (assorted lettuce, corn kernels, tomatoes, crunchy tortilla strips tossed in a herbed ranch dressing with crispy chicken brushed with sweet smoked barbecue sauce—P185).

If you want meat, order the Grilled Giant Porkchop (brushed with sweet spicy barbecue sauce and served with mashed potatoes and buttered veggies—P340) or the Baby Back Ribs (one whole rack of tender ribs basted with barbecue sauce and served with mashed potatoes and buttered veggies—P350).

If pasta's your thing, the Spicy Italian Garlic Sausage & Sweet Red Pepper Pasta (penne tossed with garlic sausage slices, tomato sauce, caramelized onions and sauteed sweet pep-

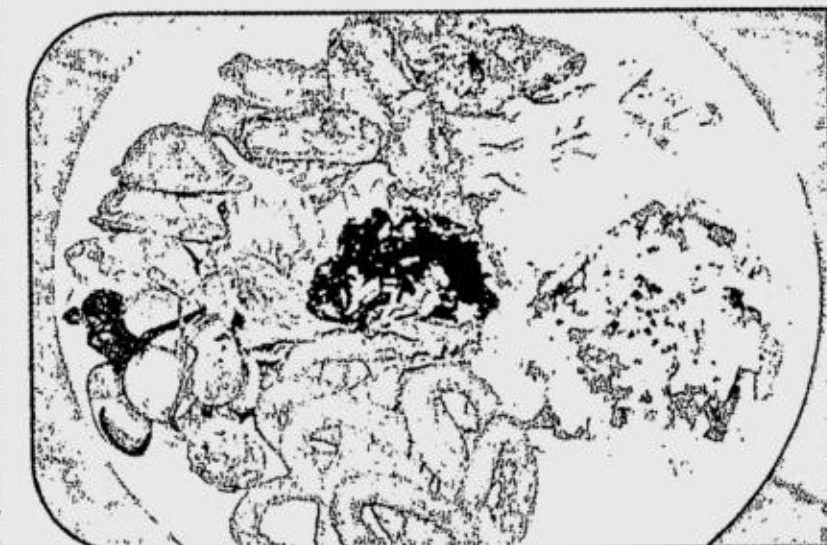
This new resto gives cafeteria dining a dose of class and comfort



GRILLED Giant Porkchop



THE SPLATWICH



GOOD enough for five. Tim's Super After Party Platter

pers—P235) is a good choice.

Other best-sellers include 'the Chicken Basil Pesto Wrap (soft-tortilla stuffed with grilled chicken, breast marinated pesto, tomatoes, shredded lettuce and pesto mayo—P190); the Rueben Pastrami Hot Wrap (grilled crispy tortilla wrap filled with beef pastrami, sauerkraut and cheese with a side of thousand island dressing); the The Splatwich (Cafeteria's signature super-sized burger with tomatoes and onions, pressed and grilled to a hot and crusty beast of a sandwich—P190); Herbie Ham and Cheese Scramble (three eggs, scramble, three cheeses, basil pesto and tomatoes with breakfast home fries and toast—P150) and the Super Chili Fries (crispy fries topped with beef chili, cheese, tomatoes and onions—P150).

First-time guests are advised to try the special dishes named after the owners of Cafeteria. Tim's Super After Party Platter (massive selection of munchies: cheese quesadilla with tomato salsa and sour cream, super chili fries, crunchy onion rings, hot and spicy buffalo wings with bleu cheese dip and celery, crispy fried dimsum dumpling and garlicky sauteed sausages with onions and sweet peppers—P595) which is enough for five to share, Erik's One Big Mess (deluxe burger stacked high with cheese, bacon strips,

Rating convenience stores

They provide instant supplies, services and gratification

By Bianca Consunji
2BU! Correspondent

TO A WEARY TRAVELER OR A bunch of teens looking for a cheap place to hang out, a convenience store is an oasis in a desert of shops restricted to respectable business hours.

Although a convenience store is not exactly the place to see and be seen, in most cases, they offer quick fixes for anyone, at any ungodly hour they wish to choose.

Running out of ice at a party? Looking for a midnight snack? No shampoo in the house? Convenience stores have proven themselves the equivalent of instant noodles—you aren't completely satisfied, but they're better than nothing at all. The stores serve the generation that craves instant gratification.

However, not all stores are made alike. Some cater to different crowds, and others specialize in certain services. Here's a list of what major convenience stores have to offer:

7-11

Arguably the first convenience store to impress the Filipino psyche, 7-11 is set apart from other convenience stores by one thing: Slurpee, the inspiration for the extra-sugary Squishie sold in the Kwik-E-Mart patronized by the Simpsons. This is the main draw in the



store—people often try to pile their Slurpees as high as they could, with some surreptitiously getting refills from the machine.

Slurpee aside, 7-11 provides the barest basics—often, their stores are rather crowded and have just a few stools, if any—they're really just stop-and-go stations. They also offer magazines (with FHM being the most prominent one on the rack), and newspapers.

The food and drinks are basic: mostly hotdog sandwiches, ice cream, candy and chips, juice, soda, water, and of course, Slurpee. Perhaps because 7-11 has been around for some time, some stores look grimy.

Mini Stop

Mini Stop attempts to set itself apart from other convenience stores by offering "real" food such as rice meals and sandwiches (aside from hotdogs). It also provides chairs and tables to patrons, which

prompted a friend to call it the "date place ng masa."

Mini Stop's branches are usually bigger than most convenience stores, which gives people more room to move around to look for supplies.

Because of the size, the stores usually have more items in stock—more food choices, drinks, magazines, and toiletries. Despite the size, there is often a chaotic feel to the place because of the number of people who sit on the chairs and loiter.

Credit must be given, however, to the wide range of choices (although they should pay more attention to quality control—the Milo Freezes seem getting more watery by the day.)

Select

Although more expensive than the other convenience stores, Select is a good place to lounge around. It could be the lighting—the softer yellow lights are not as harsh as the fluorescents found in oth-

ers—or the design (with all the streamlined blues and reds).

Browsing in Select is not as harrying as usual. After a long stretch of traffic on the road, it's actually pleasant to stretch your legs there, provided the whole city isn't thinking of doing the same thing (in that case, it would be better to suffer in the car.)

Although the junk food selection at Select is quite good—from Lay's to good chocolate, the kind you're looking for in long trips—this is bad if you're on a tight budget and a sibling screaming for candy is by your side.

There's a good selection of magazines at Select, although for some reason, FHM takes the No. 1 spot on the rack. Is there a tie-up between convenience stores and men's magazines?

Treats

In its "Come Together" campaign, Petron's Treats advertises itself as a place to hang out and meet and greet friends. While it may not exactly be the coolest place to see and be seen, it's a place meet up before a long trip, and a good rest stop as well.

The Treats stations seem to be more noticeable out of Manila—the ones in the city are just small, if any.

The provincial stations (especially the ones on the highways) are generally large and clean, and provide a good stack of magazines, comics, and newspapers. Again, junk food is king here as most of the

shelves are stacked with chips, chocolate and candy, with a smattering of sandwiches and hotdogs.

Treats is usually well lit, though the number of chairs leaves much to be desired. If it's just a stop station, then that's all well. But if it tries to advertise itself as a hangout, then there should be space for people to chill.

Starmart

Starmart seems the least conspicuous of all the convenience stores, probably because it has what seems to be the least number of branches. The branches, while generally clean, seem to be bare and devoid of any design—it's just the counter and shelves, basically.

While Starmart has a decent supply of items, the dry and rather boring atmosphere of the place prevents you from wanting to hang out any longer than you have to.

Its best branch is probably the one on the way to Baguio—it has clean restrooms and relatively more interesting landscaping.

Go for the Mocha Freeze (not all convenience stores have this) and the sometimes cheaper prices of the items. Starmart carries newspapers and magazines, but the selection is not always wide. Still, it's a convenience store, not a grocery, so all's okay.

E-mail biancaconsunji@yahoo.com



Chicken Salad



ERIK'S One Big Mess

beef chili, crispy onion rings and barbecue sauce—P290) and the Re-verse Caesar Salad (Jon Verse's caesar salad special decked with anchovies, fresh tomatoes, ham, eggs, cheese and sour dough croutons—P250).

Cafeteria's patrons also love the fact that it serves breakfast all day. The Breakfast Super Combo is a big hit. These big breakfast platters are good for three persons to share. You have two options. There's the Filipino Breakfast Super Combo (a choice of two from the following—beef *tapa*, pork *tocino*, crispy chicken *adobo*, spicy *tuyo*, *longganisa* or *daing na bangus*—served with garlic fried rice, tomato and shallot salad and eggs—P450) and the American Breakfast Super Combo (a choice of two from the following—seared spam, breakfast sausages, ham steak, bacon or cheese dogs—served with waffle wedges, buttered toast, breakfast home fries and three eggs—P450).

If you work in a call center and have crazy hours, if you're an insomniac or if you partied too hard and need a place to relax before heading home, stop by Cafeteria. The vibe is so relaxed you can even go there in your pajamas, if you dare.

Embassy Cafeteria is at The Fort Global City. Call 8163813 for inquiries.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Diary of a frustrated insomniac

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bUI Correspondent

SOME PEOPLE HAVE TROUBLE falling asleep. I, on the other hand, have trouble staying awake when I need to. Now, I'm not suffering from a sleep disorder or anything like that, but lately I've been spending too much time snoozing that I hardly get anything done.

Eight hours of sleep is a luxury that few medical students can ever hope to have, but here I was, running on a weekly average of nearly 10 hours, whether I liked it or not. This was definitely not a good thing, and my so-so grades proved it.

It wasn't just about school. During weekends, I'd start yawning by eight o'clock, space out when having drinks with friends, fall asleep while watching TV, or cut my night gigs short when Cinderella hour comes, just when things are about to get interesting. Talk about a party pooper.

To prove myself, I took part in the no-sleep marathon challenge.

Day 1: (Cata)Tonic

Like any eager beaver, I armed myself with enough energy boosters to last me till the next millennium. First on the list was good ol' strong coffee, of course. Several cups gave me an instant boost, but it gave me a bad hyperacidity attack. Then I tried drinking an energy tonic after dinner. It only succeeded in keeping my eyes wide open, and I ended up staring blankly into space. As far as my immobilized brain was concerned, the energy boost didn't count at all.

Success rate: 1 and a half stars

Day 2: The fear factor

There's nothing like a good scare to keep you on edge. Being the scaredy cat that I was, I knew that scary thoughts of what might be lurking after dark had a good chance of keeping me up all night, and they did. Unfortunately, it affected my concentration as

Fighting off sleep is a must for medical students, but it's more difficult than it sounds

well. I tried to watch TV or busy myself with the PC, but being alone downstairs freaked me out. I tried to study in my room, but I kept sneaking nervous glances around me, especially when the clock hit 3 a.m. Pretty soon I dozed off, well hidden under the bed-covers.

Success rate: 2 stars

Day 3: No-comfort zones

I had a major exam the next day, so I swore to myself that I'd study the whole night. I tend to lie on the bed while studying, so it comes off as no surprise that I fall asleep so easily. But that day, I swore off comfort—no couches, no plush chairs and definitely no beds—and chose places that were the least conducive to sleep. A friend of mine once swore that she was able to study in the bathroom, so I tried it. Five minutes later, I couldn't stand it for, uh, obvious reasons, so I moved to the dining table and sat on a hard chair. I soon found out that if I could stand the slight discomfort, good; if not, even better. But since food was within easy reach, I couldn't resist having a few midnight snacks, and it made me feel sleepy. I managed to stay awake for an extra three hours before my face fell flat on top of my book in sheer drowsiness. Then again, for someone who drifts off to sleep faster than you can say "narcolepsy," what happened was definitely a major improvement.

Success rate: 3 stars

Day 4: Public places

By this time, I was beginning to sus-



ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

pect that my merely being at home was making me feel sleepy, so I looked for 24-hour places where I could hang out. It worked at first, but then I realized two things: 1) if you plan on staying there for quite some time, you have to keep ordering, and I was already running low on funds; and 2) some places only stay open as long as there's still a customer, and the fact that the staff is only waiting for me to finish so they can go home isn't exactly helping me focus. I reluctantly went home, and you can guess what happened next.

Success rate: 2 stars

Day 5: Free-for-all

The deadline loomed ahead, and I was worse than desperate. I experimented with a jumble of different methods, however ridiculous they seemed. I tried chewing on ice, but I just gave myself a sore jaw. That did keep me up for a few minutes. My alarm clock was pretty much useless, as my subconscious had already discovered the joys of pushing the snooze button. I tried using human alarm clocks (such as my exasperated sister), but they were only effective until they went to sleep themselves.

I even tried doing whatever I felt like doing, hoping that it would keep me interested enough to stay awake. But no, even "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" didn't do its job. Okay, this is serious.

Success rate: 1 star

Day 6: Good ol' willpower

After several unsuccessful attempts,

I was more than ready to scream in frustration. As a last resort, I tried a combination of several methods, modified them a bit, and came up with the perfect formula: No comfort zones, one cup of strong coffee on a not-empty stomach, and a hefty amount of self-discipline. Finally, I pulled an all-nighter, my first in so many months. In that span of time, I was able to review for my exams, finish reading "Harry Potter," surf the Net and even enjoy a couple of hours gabbing with my friends in between breaks. What's weird is that at school, I was more chipper than most of my classmates who had had a few hours of sleep.

Downsides:

As of this article, I've been awake for nearly two days and still counting. Call it suicide, but I'm determined to see how far I'd go without sleep. Right now, I'm practically the poster girl of fatigue: bloodshot eyes, frayed nerves, zombie-like movements and a brain that refuses to function. I can only imagine that the editors have popped a few veins trying to make sense out of my ramblings.

By the time I wrap this up, my brain cells will be more than happy to hibernate for the rest of the week. But at least, I now know what to do (and what not to do) whenever I need to stay up late, whether it's for work or play. My bed has never looked so inviting, I swear.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko@atenista.net.

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"EAT! I love chocolates!"
—Alexis, 20



"I SHADOW-BOX after dark. I do this activity because it gives me a high every time." —Jay Alcantara, 20



"SNUG in my bed blissfully sleeping and dreaming." —Tiff, 17, ADMU



"WATCH movies. Surf the net. Play online games." —Tzaddi, 21



"I LISTEN to music and read, because it's more solemn and peaceful after dark. It helps me prepare for the next day." —Margaux Aquino, 19



"RAMPAGE..." —Geoff, 17

The young and the sleepless



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Compiled by Tammy David
and Zee Castro
2bU! Correspondents

FOR THIS WEEK'S issue, 2bU! takes a peek at the insomniacs, night criers, crammers, sleep questors and other citizens of nocturnal Manila to know what they do after dark.

I like to look at the photos I took during the day and turn them into ideas for a painting or a new t-shirt design. It's easier for me to work at night. The silence helps.

—Niña Sandejas, 22, fashion designer/stylist

Boring chill-out stuff like drink a few beers, watch DVDs and read magazines.

—Becca Rodriguez, 26, columnist

Surf CNN, read, journalize, answer e-mail... The more I multitask, the sooner I can get to bed for that much-needed shut-eye.

—Cathy Young, 22, grad student

I do power walks around Makati late at night. The evening breeze and ma-drama effect of lampposts and the empty underpass help clear my mind. I also like watching football on TV Live or talking to friends in the US 'til the sun rises. God Bless Vantage! —Tammy, 22

If I'm alone, I like collecting my thoughts. Of course, listening to music, too, but most of all, wishing the hours would go by faster, so I can play drums again! —Lex Adarme, 15, Shards of Ice

Before going to bed, I set my alarm at a certain time of early morning just so I can wake up and know I still have a few hours to sleep.

—Kai, 18, ADMU

I swim after dark. It gives me a natural high and the water seems to be cleaner.

—Joemar Ledesma, 21

Study, listen to music, get everything "my way," talk to my friends. It's so relaxing and peaceful. I feel alive after dark.

—Pallavi Pareek, 20

I love drinking hot chocolate at Starbucks/McDonald's in the evening.

—Gmeleen

Tomboc, 24, UP Diliman

Go out and drink with friends.

—Chinggay, 20

I feed my pet. I love animals.

—Mike, 17

Nagpupuyat. —Rayson, 18

Work, work, work. —Ely, 20

I contemplate. —Philippe, 20

E-mail suggestions for future Snoop Troop questions to

ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.



"PLAY badminton." —Koko, 20; "Wala lang, tambay." —David, 18; "I pray the rosary." —Constantine, 18; "Drink my vitamins." —Jobert, 17

PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID AND ZEE CASTRO



"LUMALABAS sa TV." —Jin, 18



"I RUN after dark because it makes me feel free." —Carlo Rojas, 21

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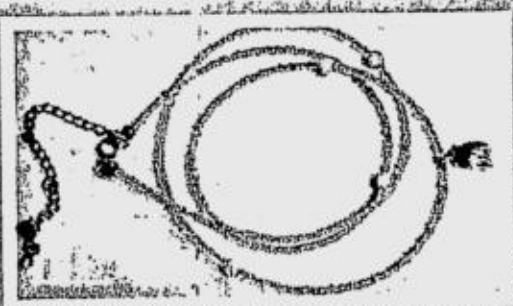
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LIFESTYLE



BELLY chains by Coral Beads go from P130 to P150



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LIGHTHOUSE earrings, P120



BROWN Indo Pants with sash, P800



FLORAL skirt, P700



GREEN swishy mini skirt, P500

Summer in September

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Romy Homillada

FRIENDS 22-YEAR-OLD Noelle Hilario and 28-year-old Kage Gozun began designing clothes as an answer to their own needs. "We couldn't find clothes we wanted in the stores here. Or if we did find them, they were too expensive. We both like to wear beach-y looking clothes even when we aren't on the beach kasi," Noelle said.

They began creating pieces that can be comfortably worn both on the beach and in the city, first for themselves and then for people who wanted to buy them.

Soon, Brown Belly was born.

Noelle and Kage's clothing line features "fun, functional, beach-inspired chick

gear." "We wanted clothes that suit the tropical climate of our country," Noelle said.

A first business venture for both, Brown Belly has been expanding their market from just their friends and relatives to other people who appreciate their alternative designs.

"Our clients are mostly women in their twenties to early thirties. We've also gotten a lot of the college crowd and, surprisingly, pregnant women. With the pregnant women, we think it's because our Indo and Thai pants are comfy." Their male clientele is growing as well.

The lure of owning something unique seems to be working well. "We make items that have limited runs because we know that it

isn't always fun to have something that 100 other people also own."

Among their best sellers are the Indonesian pants and Thai fisherman pants. Their tube tops with the detachable orchid brooch were sold out at the last bazaar they participated in, while more daring people love their backless satin apron tops.

The two have their own favorites, too. Noelle loves the Indo pants with sash and their swishy mini skirt while Kage likes the Thai pants and mesh halter tops.

Noelle also designs unique earrings and belly chains that go well with their clothes. Her accessories line is called Coral

Beads. (Check out coralbeads.blogspot.com.)

Noelle talks about the advantages of being young entrepreneurs. "We have fresh ideas. And we aren't afraid to take risks." They have a lot of plans for Brown Belly. "We'd like to bring Brown Belly to more people, make it more available. We are also always thinking of what new items we should be creating and offering to our clients. In the immediate future, well... we're working on our website and the upcoming bazaar season."

And if you can't wait for the bazaars to get your hands on great pieces from Brown Belly, you can visit www.brownbelly.com or e-mail brownbelly@gmail.com.

Noelle and Kage say they are inspired by "the sand, sun, coconut trees, surfing,



APRON tops go for P300

KATHY CHUA

bright colors, hanging out and promoting good vibes."

And as long as they're inspired, the rest of us can enjoy eternal summers.

E-mail the author at ppas-tor@inquirer.com.ph.

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Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.

The desire to design

This 22-year-old has gone from selling a couple of earrings to building her own line of fun accessories

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Ryan Lim and Roger Carpio

ACCESSORIES HAVE BEEN A lifelong passion for 22-year-old Rosy Yabut. "I love love love accessories! I remember adoring all of my mom's accessories during my childhood."

And when her lifelong passion met her desire to start a business, good things started to happen. "I always thought of getting into a business that I would really enjoy. This began mainly as a hobby. I started reselling just a few pairs of earrings online. I realized then that there is a big demand for accessories. That urged me to start creating my own items."

Rosy has gone a long way from just selling a few earrings. Her line, Rosycheeks, offers so much more. "Now I sell everything—necklaces, earrings, bracelets, beaded flip flops, bangles, cocktail rings and bag charms and bangles."

She designs and makes her accessories by hand, with the help of her friends.

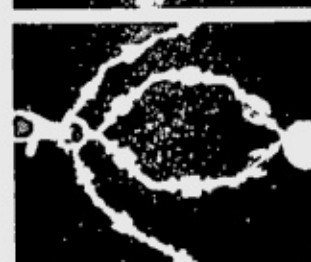
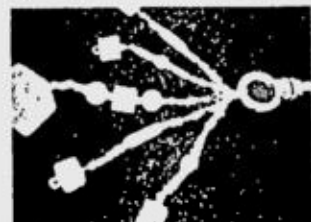
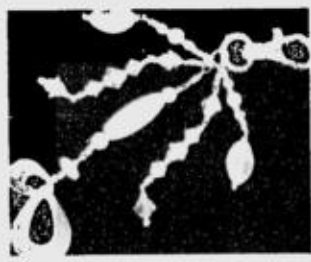
Rosy says her creations are intended for "anyone who loves trendy accessories and dares to be different." Her clients like the way Rosy lets them personalize their orders. "They love the fact that we can customize most of the accessories to suit their own unique tastes."

Her bestsellers include her Kukui necklaces, earrings, bracelets, beaded flip flops and hand-painted and wrapped bangles. But her current favorites are her newest creation—wired accessories.

Drawing inspiration from local and international fashion trends, Rosy says she still has a lot of plans for her business.

"I take things one step at a time. Now I'm making sketches of shoes and bags. I'm also planning to join some of the upcoming bazaars."

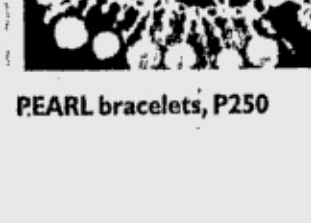
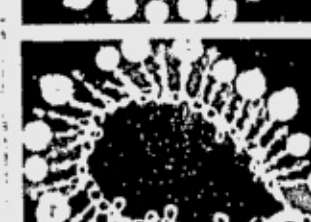
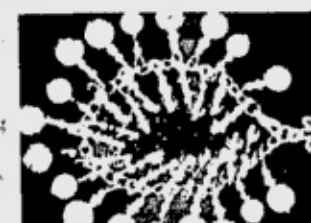
Right now, Rosy is enjoying her life as a young entrepreneur. "At my young age, I know I still have a lot of time to grow my



BAG charms, P180



EARRINGS, P150



PEARL bracelets, P250

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FOXTROT



JASON'S HOROSCOPES

Aries: Take big risks today.
Taurus: Signs say you're a winner.
Gemini: A good day to take chances.
Cancer: Luck is squarely in your corner.
Leo: Seek out machines with flashing lights and fruit.
Virgo: Bet the farm.
Libra: Keep close to green felt.
Scorpio: Phrase for the day: "Let it ride."
Sagittarius: Things will come to you in lots of 21.
Capricorn: Red is your color.
Aquarius: Black is your color.
Pisces: Can you say "junkpot"?

BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN



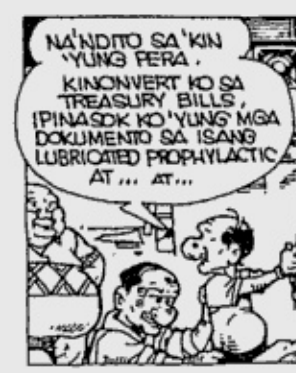
NOW, INSTEAD OF SIX CRAYONS



BY TOM ARMSTRONG



PUGAD BABOY



BY RM. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES



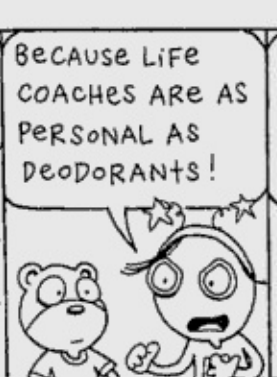
BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS



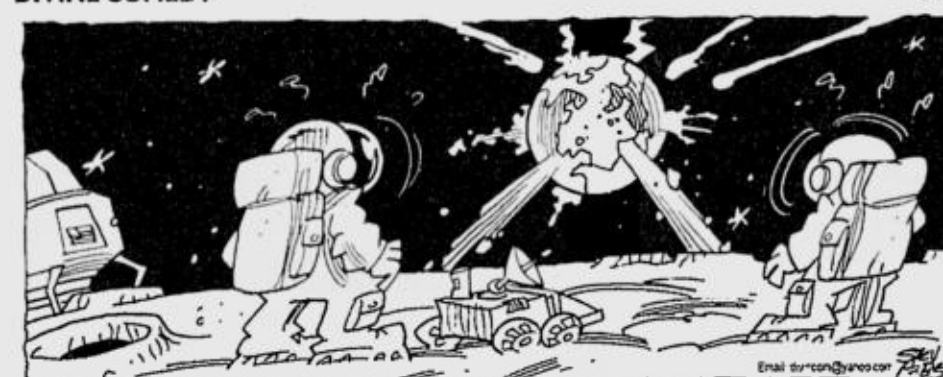
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY



BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY



BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You enjoy beautiful things and have excellent taste. (You're a romantic.) People are attracted to your personality, and also to the way you do things. This is an extremely fortunate time for you because the year ahead might be one of the best of your life so far. Don't hesitate to open new doors.

Birthdate of: Mira Sorvino, actress; Gwyneth Paltrow, actress; Hilary Duff, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Someone might disappoint you today. In fact, several areas could be disappointing or confusing, including the arts and relating to children. Remind yourself that this is a temporary feeling. (Gone by tomorrow!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't speak without thinking today. It's easy for others to misunderstand you, and vice versa. This especially applies to conversations with siblings and relatives.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your disappointment in a partner or close friend could be tied up with your own expectations. Are you being realistic? You might be caught up in your own personal melodrama.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with family members, especially parents, might be confusing today. It's minor, but let it coast.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're in the mood to shop today. You want to buy something gorgeous. Since yours is one of the most practical signs of the zodiac, go ahead!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't listen to doubts, fears and feelings of misgiving. You're still the same person you were when you last felt completely free. (Our minds can play tricks on us.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might be afraid that a romantic situation is a betrayal, or not to be trusted. This could be so; however, what is more likely is your fears are stirring up your suspicions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might want to avoid authority figures, parents and VIPs today. You just don't feel up to it. If this is the case, give yourself a break! You come first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's OK to want to escape from everything today. We all have days like this. Let's face it—it's hard out there without your towel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day to divide things from a will or an inheritance. It's also a poor day to decide how to share jointly held property.

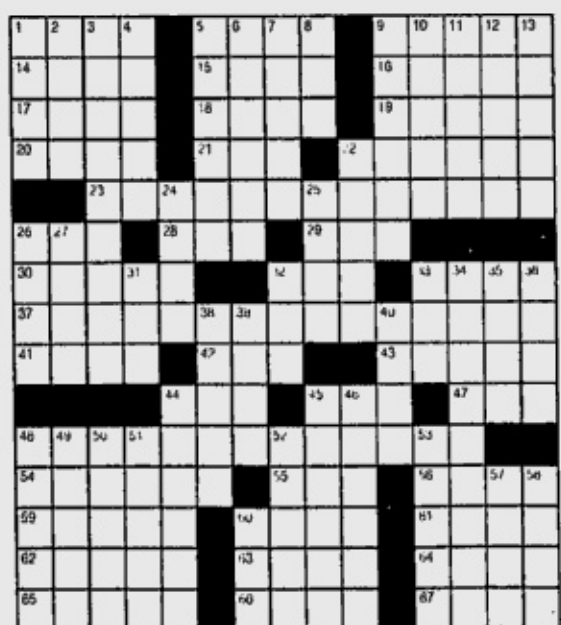
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be polite with others today. The Moon is opposite your sign, and at the same time hidden behind the veil of Neptune. This confuses your conversations with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Double-check your work on the job. Be clear in all your communications with co-workers. Today it's easy to see things how you want them to be rather than how they are.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Cut back
- 5 Hand signal
- 9 Passing scent
- 14 Baking box
- 15 Declare firmly
- 16 Painter Matisse
- 17 Barbed remark
- 18 Towel word
- 19 "Rocket Man" rocker John
- 20 "Nelsie" line
- 21 "Canterbury Tales" locale
- 22 Popularized myth
- 23 Smarmy reptiles?
- 25 Choice: abbr.
- 28 Banns word
- 29 Sure shot
- 30 "Middlemarch" author
- 32 Pierre's pal
- 33 Gray and Candler
- 37 Sweet reptile?
- 41 Ike's ex
- 42 Mature
- 43 "myrtle"
- 44 Gardener of "Mogambo"
- 45 Feel poorly
- 47 Ring wins
- 48 Utile reptile?
- 54 Virgil's hero
- 55 Decide
- 56 Musical unit
- 59 "The Plague" author
- 60 Musical medley
- 61 Continental money
- 62 Clear the board
- 63 Sour
- 64 Winchester rival
- 65 Force units
- 66 Black-and-white cookie
- 67 Fast jets, for short

By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

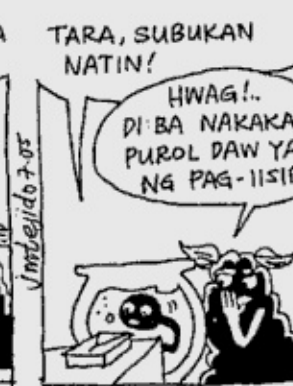
9/28/05

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

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- 5 Female surfer
- 6 Settle a score
- 7 Nemo's creator
- 8 Hosp. areas
- 9 Breathe laboriously
- 10 Hagar the Horrible's lady
- 11 Change starter?
- 12 Palm leaf
- 13 Discovers
- 22 On the up and up
- 24 Biblical preposition
- 25 Kind of duck?
- 26 Faction
- 27 Precollage, briefly
- 31 S. American tuber
- 32 Goddess of folly
- 33 Timetable abbr.
- 34 Surveillance
- 35 Kal Kan rival
- 36 Understands
- 38 Washes
- 39 Petri dish
- 40 Bruins of coll. sports
- 44 Humiliates
- 45 Strive (toward)
- 46 Wholly
- 48 Walked worriedly
- 49 LSD's Timothy
- 50 Sap the nerve
- 51 Verdun's river
- 52 Of the sun
- 53 Leg joints
- 57 Racing gait
- 58 Billions of years
- 60 Of the ear

MIKROKOSMOS



BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN



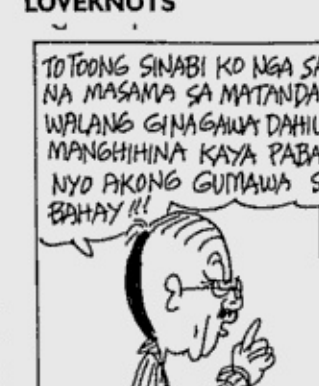
BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE



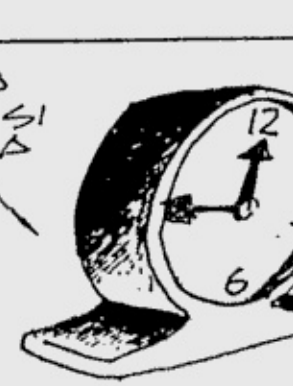
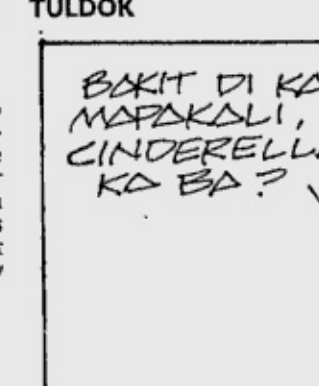
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS



BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK



BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



LUMBANG necklaces, P200 for the short ones, P320 for the long ones

The desire

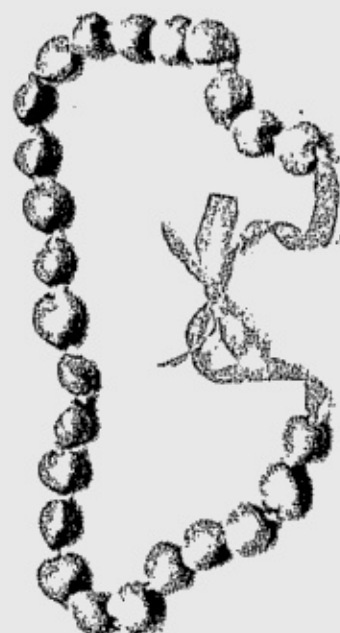
From page D1

business. I get to save and have lots of fun! I love what I'm doing!"

Check out Rossey's designs at rocheeks.multiply.com or contact her through 0918-6134935 and 0915-4477689.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Do you want The Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.



BANGLES, P180



BEADED flip flops, P280 a pair



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Brewed and 'barako'

By Thea F. Alberto
2bUI Contributor

PEOPLE DO NOT BUY locally-grown coffee as they used to. Instead, they buy instant coffee from multinational companies.

And we cannot blame them; after all, instant coffee is cheaper and easier to prepare. But some-

times, we should not succumb to choosing something because of mere convenience. It would be better that we search not for immediate comfort but for long-term benefits.

With the rise of instant-coffee businesses, the barako coffee industry appears threatened. But it is not too late to patronize and save the barako coffee. Brewed is better.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Development Communication-DEVC 180-Y Kape Barako group has lined up various activities to promote the barako industry.

- Kapeng Barako exhibit and audio-visual presentation, Sept. 27-29, Humanities Building
- Distribution of free barako drinks
- Mini-concert at LB square with local bands, poets and performers, Sept. 29



Are you changing the world?

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism on Volunteer In Person (VIP) Day, Oct. 21, at Rockwell Loft, Makati City.

Faces of Volunteerism recognizes Metro Manila's everyday heroes who in their everyday lives touch those who need them most.

They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays reading books to sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

The HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program also aims to encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others. On VIP Day, the Top 5 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a

P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

In a crowd of anonymous heroes, these are the faces that shine the brightest.

If you know anyone who deserves to be recognized, send your entries with the following details by Sept. 30.

1. Name
2. Age
3. School/company/organization
4. Occupation (if applicable)
5. Volunteer experience in the last year. Talk about your:
 - a. Organizations/projects involved including contact person/numbers/addresses
 - b. Duration/frequency
 - c. Activity/task involved
 - d. How your service was significant to the project
 - e. Why you chose this program/project
 - f. How the experience affected you

6. Documentation
 - a. 2x2 photo
 - b. Certification from community/organization
 7. Two references (name, contact information)
 8. Briefly describe your proposal project. Please give:
 - a. Details of the organization including contact information
 - b. Title of the project
 - c. Objectives
 - d. Project duration
 - e. Activities including role of volunteers
 - f. Budget
- Entries may be sent to HSBC Faces of Volunteerism c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City; or Hands On Manila Foundation Inc., Unit LP10 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo cor. dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, or e-mail homla@info.com.ph

Win shoes for your girl!

2BU! AND MERRELL INVITES you to win shoes for your girl by sharing your experiences in the great outdoors.

Send us a photo of your great adventure (adventure racing, rock climbing, rappelling/abseiling, kayaking, orienteering, bungee jumping, sky diving, trail running, backpacking, mountain biking, camping, mountain climbing or any extreme sports activity—it's up to you) and an essay telling us about it.

Senders of our eight favorite entries will receive a pair of Merrell's women shoes for their favorite girl. We will choose the best photo essay from the eight and the winner will receive Merrell GCs worth P10,000.

If you're male, 18 years old and above, send us a high-quality photo of your adventure (not digitally manipulated, please) along with a brief description. Don't forget to include your name, age, address, contact info and the shoe size of your favorite girl.

E-mail your entries to contest 2bu@inquirer.com.ph

Makeup's endless possibilities

From page D4
dries lightning-fast.

Shu Uemura Luster Gel. At first glance, this cooling gel in a pot appeared reminiscent of the body glitter gels we all succumbed to during our prom days. When I swiped it onto my cheekbones, however, was I glad someone thought of doing a much better spin to those sparkle-laden (in a not-so-good way) party staples!

I love how it gives a not-over-the-top shine, and looks dewy, not gunky. I am also more than happy to report that there are no visible glitter particles that can potentially reflect light off of your face (or anywhere else in your body you wish to highlight). A winner indeed.

Skin Allison Raffaele Inner Glow. You know how we are all supposed to look for the blush

that makes us look like we "glow from within"? You can stop the search this very moment and get yourself this blush stick. It almost looks like jelly and smells like berries, but it makes you blush like a good run can.

Because it's not the dot-on, liquid type, your slowpoke fingers need not work out when spreading it on your face. Blushing like a pro need not be a feat for makeup newbies with this in your kiky kit.

Skin Allison Raffaele at Beauty Bar; Shu Uemura and Bobbi Brown at Rustan's; Ever Bile-naand Maybelline at leading department stores.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com or lgahol@pldtvibe.net

WORKINGMOM

YOUR GUIDE TO A BALANCED LIFE

MAGAZINE



FREE Parenting Workshop

Discipline with Love

by Ms. Maribel Dionisio

October 1, 2005

9am-12noon

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Makeup's endless possibilities

I USED TO THINK MAKEUP ALWAYS CAME in powder form. I think it had something to do with watching my mom wield a number of brushes to put it on every morning.

Now, though, armed with the "maturity" that inevitably goes with being in the beauty industry for quite a number of years, I have come to realize that with the technology that goes behind each and every beauty product, freeze-dried and vacuum-packed blush may not be far away from where we are!

Seriously speaking, makeup has gone way beyond the innovation that liquid lipstick once was. Rouge, foundation, eye shadow and lip color are simply jumping from one form of matter to another, giving new meaning to the phrase "endless possibilities."

Other than the amusing fact that that airy mousse in a pot is actually your blush, the many varying (and sometimes, surprising) textures available makes makeup application easier and more flexible than ever. And don't even get me

started on the myriad looks you can get with but a mere smudge.

Mousse makeup

Maybelline Dream Matte Whipped Foundation. The moment I received a pot of this light-as-air makeup wonder, I had to let out a little squeal—I'd been seeing its ads on foreign magazines and crossing my fingers that it would land on our shores for some time now. When I felt it melt on my skin, I had to say it was



*Lora
Gabor*

Rouge, foundation, eye shadow and lip color are simply jumping from one form of matter to another

Shock!

can look forward to: impulse will enjoy continuous offering of exciting events and
and a chance to win return trips to Singapore shopping money and other great prizes.

Equality

Filipinos should depart for Singapore from Manila or Pampanga between September 1 to November 30, 2005.

There should be a minimum of one night's stay in Singapore.

or us they go down delightfully. Tkan-Tkan, Torjes.

The larger the group, the longer the stay, the more chances to win.
So why not book your Singapore trip with your favorite travel agent now.

Journal of the American Statistical Association 96(456):1093-1104, December 2001



Upcoming Events

September

1:30 Pump & Run
 2:45 Fitness Fair 2005
 3:30 Kick-off Good Fest
 4:30 China Town
 Mid-Autumn Festival
 5:30 Outdoor Family & Kids Fun Sale
 7:30 Mooncakes & Mid-Autumn
 Celebration
 9:00 UIMF Powerboat World
 Championship
 5:15 5th International Guitar
 Show
 7:30 Kaitian Import Fair
 Asian Contemporary Art Fair
 2:00 Shopping & Wellness

October

10-11-68
10-12-68
10-13-68
10-14-68
10-15-68

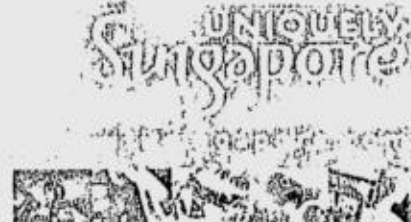
November

15: Deep call strike
 16: Fairly rich tip
 17: World cyber game
 18: Grand final
 19: Cao Xinglin

TEA	Jacques-Pierre Regille
TEA	Karl Ulfvick-Walden
TEA	Singdon-Burke H. Foye
TEA	Roderic May Esquivel

December

- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Eve Dinner
- Christmas Eve Paper Marathon
- Christmas Eve Topics
- The Snow Queen
- New Year Countdown



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REFRESHINGLY SPECIAL.**

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